

JANUARY NO. 3

10¢

DIARY LOVES

I.C.O.
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ROMANCE
PUBLICATION

Glimpses into the intimate secrets of girls in love



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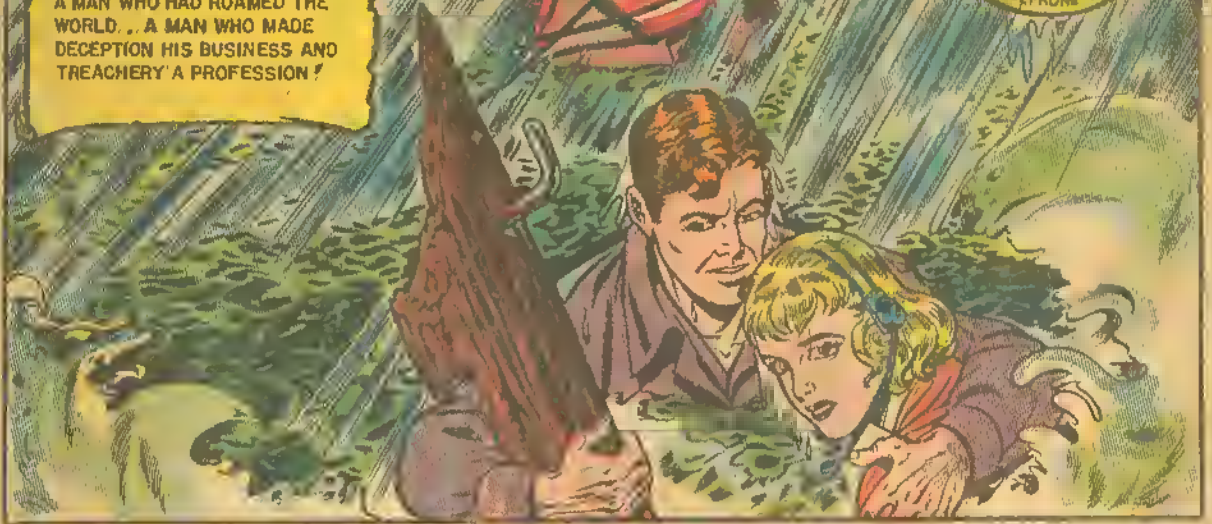


ON SALE EVERYWHERE

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DISASTER CALL

MYRTLE FROST WAS BORED WITH HER JOB AS SMALL-TOWN TELEPHONE OPERATOR. BORED WITH HER SMALL-TOWN BOY FRIEND, RED CADY! IT WAS EASY TO MAKE HERSELF BELIEVE THE HONEY-TONGUED FLATTERY OF A MAN WHO HAD ROAMED THE WORLD... A MAN WHO MADE DECEPTION HIS BUSINESS AND TREACHERY A PROFESSION!



Dear Diary:

I met the most fascinating man today! I wouldn't believe a word he said... but he's exciting and different from Red Cady, who gets duller every day!

Dottie relieved me at four o'clock and I was glad to be through for the day!

TIME'S UP, MYRTLE! ANY NEW SCANDAL ON THE LINES TODAY?

WHY, DOTTIE, YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T LISTEN IN ON PHONE CALLS--

MUCH! BUT THERE WASN'T ANY! THE TALK WAS AS DULL AS THIS TOWN!



Red Cady was waiting outside by his truck!

HI, HONEY! WANT TO RIDE OUT TO THE NEW DAM WITH ME? I'VE GOT TO STRING A SHORT LINE TO THEIR NEW ENGINEERING SHACK!

WHY NOT, RED? IT WILL AT LEAST BE A BREAK IN THE MONOTONY, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW THE NEW DAM IS COMING ALONG!



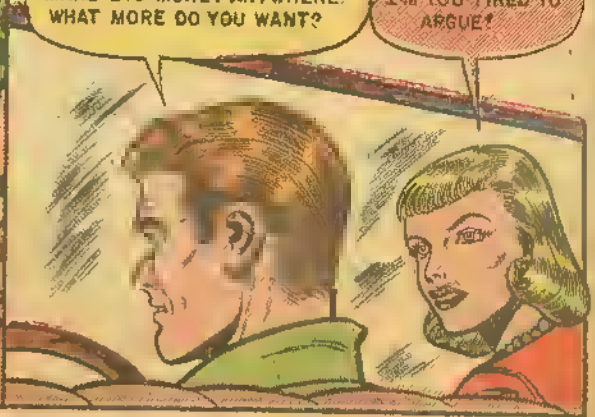
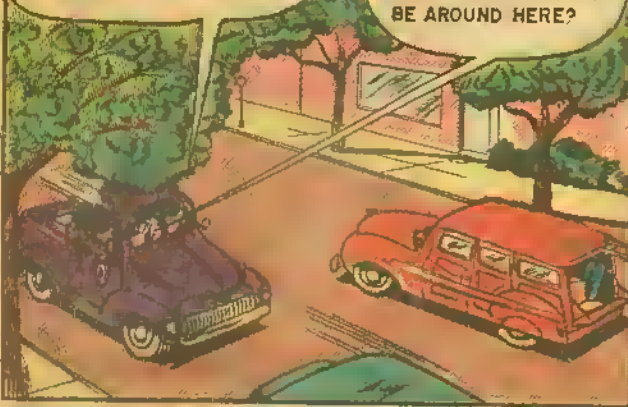
DIARY LOVES

I CAN TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE TO BREAK THE MONOTONY, MYRTLE! MARRY ME AND I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T BE BORED!

OH, DON'T START THAT AGAIN, RED! WHAT KIND OF A FUTURE WOULD THAT BE AROUND HERE?

PLENTY! SOME DAY I'LL BE MANAGER HERE... OR I CAN GO INTO CABLE REPAIR AND MAKE BIG MONEY ANYWHERE! WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, RED! SKIP IT, WILL YOU? I'M TOO TIRED TO ARGUE!



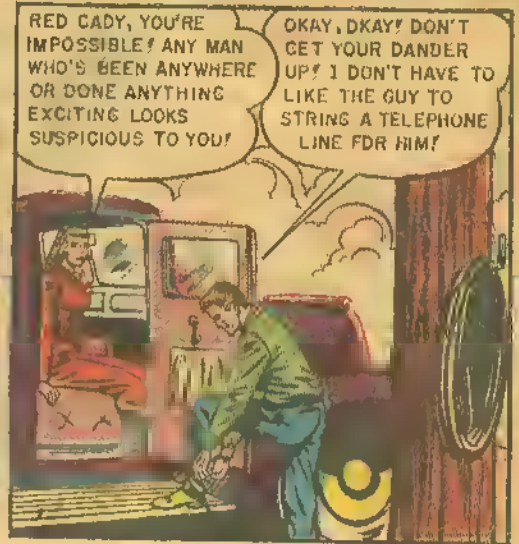
Two miles out we reached the site of the new Vulcan River dam, being built to guard the town against disastrous floods!

ISN'T IT THRILLING? THEY SAY NEIL DWIGHT, THE CONTRACTOR, HAS BUILT DAMS ALL OVER THE WORLD!

MAYBE! BUT THAT GUY HAS A SHIFTY EYE! I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM TO BUILD A BIKHOUSE FOR ME!

RED CADDY, YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE! ANY MAN WHO'S BEEN ANYWHERE OR DONE ANYTHING EXCITING LOOKS SUSPICIOUS TO YOU!

OKAY, DKAAY! DON'T GET YOUR DANDER UP! I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE THE GUY TO STRING A TELEPHONE LINE FOR HIM!



BUT IT'S DARN FUNNY HE WOULDN'T HIRE A SINGLE LOCAL MAN... AND HE DOESN'T LET ANYBODY VISIT THE JOB!

HOW SILLY! NO LOCAL MEN KNOW HOW TO BUILD DAMS! AND I'LL BET I CAN VISIT THE JOB RIGHT NOW AND NOBODY'D STOP ME!

Red just snorted... and that made me angry and stubborn!

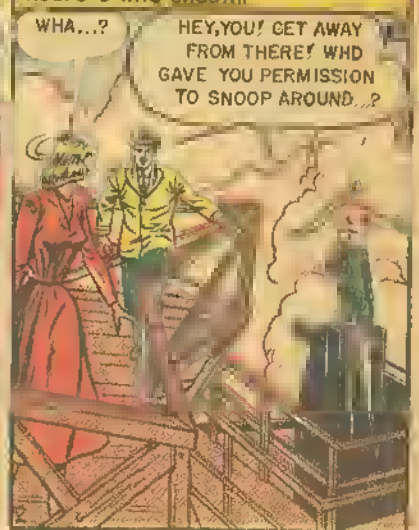
JUST FOR THAT I'LL CLIMB ALL OVER THAT DAM... AND MAYBE I'LL GET NEIL DWIGHT, THE CONTRACTOR, TO SHOW ME AROUND!



Nobody noticed as I walked out to where they were mixing concrete to fill the giant forms! Then I heard a wild shout...

WHA...?

HEY, YOU! GET AWAY FROM THERE! WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO SNOOP AROUND...?



DIARY LOVES

ULP! EXCUSE ME! I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS SHOUTING AT A DREAM! THE LOCAL YOKELS CLIMB AROUND AND GET HURT IF I DON'T WATCH THEM!

I'M AFRAID I'M ONE OF THE LOCAL YOKELS, TOO, MR. DWIGHT! I'M MYRTLE FROST, ONE OF THE TELEPHONE OPERATORS!



The flame of approval and interest that blazed in Neil's dark eyes made my heart leap... though I read the danger signals, too!

MYRTLE HONEY, TO ATONE FOR MY RUDENESS, LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND THE JOB! I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS ANY ONE LIKE YOU IN TOWN!

FLATTERER! BUT I WOULD ENJOY LOOKING OVER THE DAM!



The sight of Red Gady glaring murderously from the pole made me play up to Neil Dwight, who needed little encouragement!

BETTER LET ME HOLD YOU, HONEY! YOU MIGHT SLIP!

I'M NOT SURE WHICH WOULD BE MORE DANGEROUS... NEIL!



We went everywhere --- except over the finished part of the dam! Naturally I was curious and tried to see what was there...

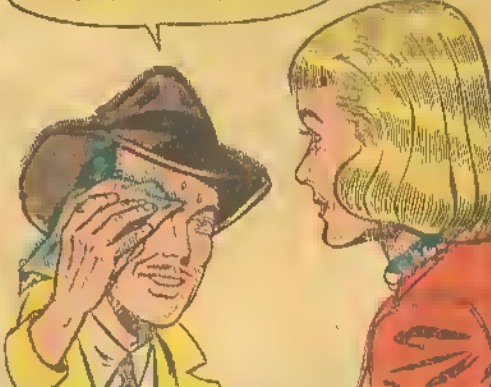
OH, NEIL --- LOOK! YOUR NICE NEW DAM IS FULL OF HUGE CRACKS! HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

ULP! ER... COME ON AWAY FROM HERE, SWEET! THAT'S... UH... SOMETHING YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! HA-HA! CRACKS?



THAT'S... ER... JUST THE COARSE INSIDE FILLER, HONEY! WE PUT THE HARD CONCRETE OVER THAT! BUT DON'T MENTION THOSE CRACKS TO ANYBODY...

OH, I WOULDN'T!



AH --- THESE LOCAL DUMMIES WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! THEY MIGHT GET THE IDEA THE DAM WASN'T STRONG, SEE! YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE ARE!

OF COURSE, NEIL! I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T MAKE A DAM THAT WASN'T PERFECT!



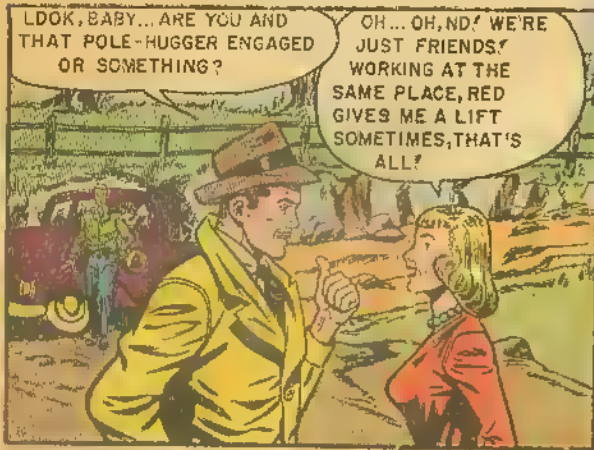
THAT OLD TRUCK IS NO CHARIOT FOR A QUEEN, BABY! LET ME TAKE YOU HOME! WE'LL DRIVE OVER TO VINSON FOR DINNER AND...

THANKS, BUT I COULDN'T THIS TIME, NEIL! IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO DESERT RED! ASK ME ANOTHER TIME!



DIARY LOVES

Then Neil asked a question and I lied to him! I think I must have been hypnotized by his bold admiration, his attention!



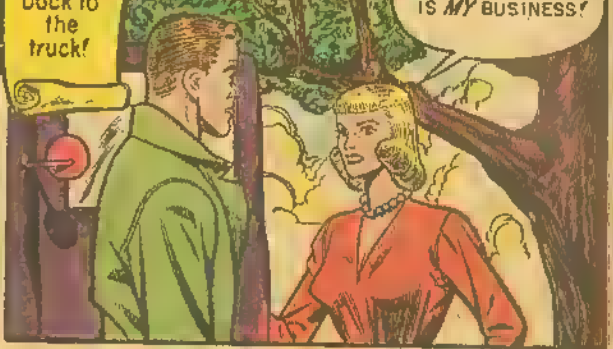
LOOK, BABY... ARE YOU AND THAT POLE-HUGGER ENGAGED OR SOMETHING?

OH... OH, NO! WE'RE JUST FRIENDS! WORKING AT THE SAME PLACE, RED GIVES ME A LIFT SOMETIMES, THAT'S ALL!

Then, because my conscience hurt me, I hurried back to the truck!

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME BACK! THE WAY YOU WERE SNUGLING UP TO FANCY PANTS, I DIDN'T THINK A TELEPHONE TRUCK WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU!

RED GADY, IF YOU HAD SOME OF NEIL'S MANNERS, YOU'D GET A LOT FURTHER! AND WHAT I DO IS MY BUSINESS!



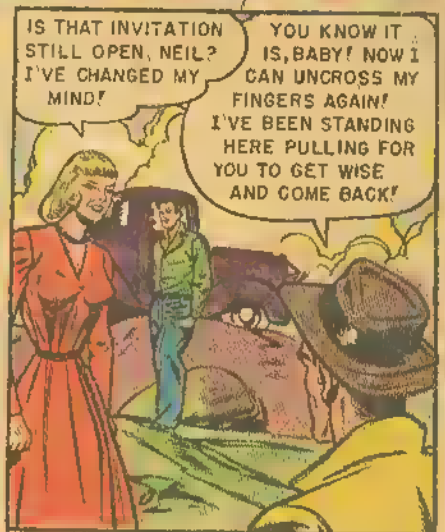
I DON'T CARE! I DON'T LIKE IT, MYRTLE! WHEN WE'VE BEEN GOING STEADY FOR TWO YEARS, I FIGURE IT'S MY BUSINESS, TOO!

WELL, IT ISN'T! A FEW DULL DATES DON'T MAKE YOU MY GUARDIAN!



THAT GUY'S A SKIRT-CHASER AND PROBABLY WORSE! I DON'T WANT YOU GETTING MIXED UP WITH HIM!

OH, YOU DON'T? WELL, NEIL'S INVITED ME OUT TO DINNER AND I'M ACCEPTING! YOU CAN RIDE HOME ALONE, MR. JEALOUS GADY!



IS THAT INVITATION STILL OPEN, NEIL? I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!

YOU KNOW IT IS, BABY! NOW I CAN UNCROSS MY FINGERS AGAIN! I'VE BEEN STANDING HERE PULLING FOR YOU TO GET WISE AND COME BACK!

The evening went by in a whirl of excitement, with the sense of danger only adding spice!

On the way home I kept Neil at arm's length! But when we got to my house, something made me change!

Suddenly I knew there was no such thing as a casual kiss from Neil Dwight! When it ended my heart was pounding wildly!



EASE OFF A LITTLE, NEIL! THIS ISN'T ONE OF YOUR CONTRACTS WHERE YOU HAVE TO RUSH THE JOB OR LOSE OUT!

IMAGINE FINDING A GAL WITH LOOKS AND A SENSE OF HUMOR, TOO?



IT WAS A WONDERFUL EVENING, NEIL! I MIGHT EVEN BREAK DOWN AND LET YOU KISS ME GOOD NIGHT!

THAT JUST PROVES I'LL NEVER FIGURE WOMEN OUT, HONEY! BUT I'M NOT COMPLAINING...

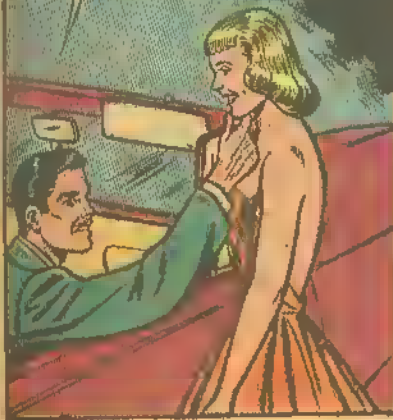


OOOOHHH!

DIARY LOVES

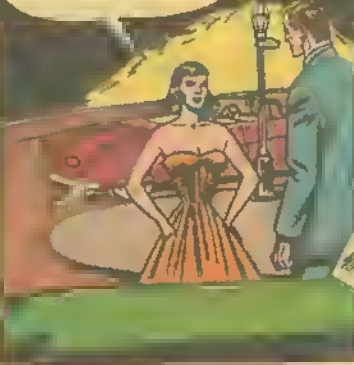
DON'T GET LOST, BABY! THAT SAMPLE WAS FINE! I'LL BE AROUND TOMORROW TO PLACE AN ORDER! AND KEEP MUM ABOUT THOSE CRACKS!

GOOD NIGHT, NEIL! AND THANKS AGAIN! I WON'T TELL A SOUL!



The moment Neil drove off, I marched over to an old coupe parked in the shadows! This was why I had let Neil kiss me!

ALL RIGHT, RED CADY! I HOPE YOU'VE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME! PLAYING SPY! YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO ENDEAR YOURSELF TO A GIRL, DON'T YOU?



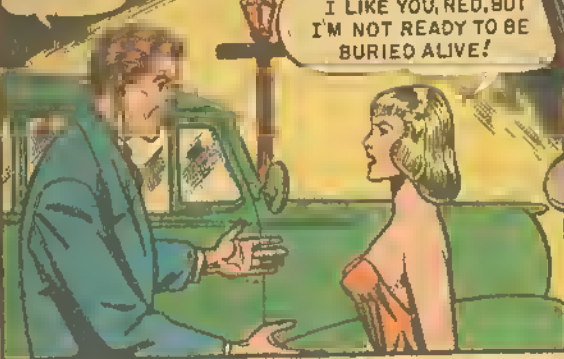
DAWGONNIT, MYRTLE, I HAD TO WAIT! I TELL YOU, THAT GUY'S POISON TO GIRLS! YOU OUGHTA KNOW THAT NOW... OR DID YOU LIKE IT?

YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE! WHAT I DO AND WHOM I GO OUT WITH IS MY OWN AFFAIR! IF YOU HAD ANY IDEAS, GET OVER THEM!



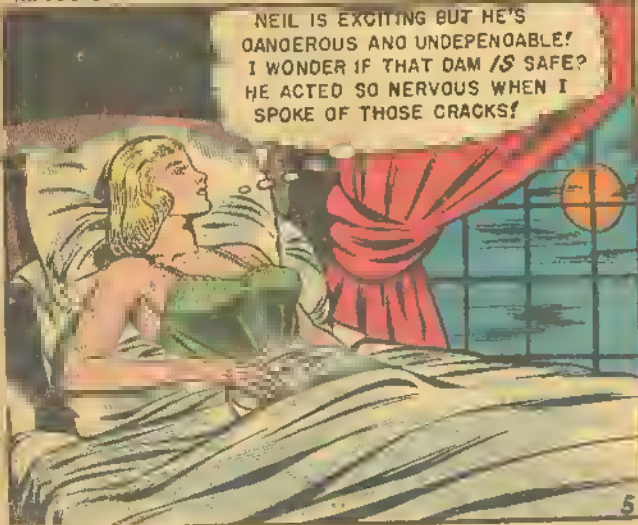
DARN IT, HONEY, MAYBE I'M JUST A DUMB LINEMAN BUT I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! I WANT TO MARRY YOU AND HAVE A HOME AND FAMILY!

AND I WANT SOME FUN OUT OF LIFE, SOME EXCITEMENT AND GLAMOUR! I LIKE YOU, RED, BUT I'M NOT READY TO BE BURIED ALIVE!



My emotions were all mixed up...but that night a tiny thread of doubt wove itself through my romantic dreams!

NEIL IS EXCITING BUT HE'S DANGEROUS AND UNDEPENDABLE! I WONDER IF THAT DAM IS SAFE? HE ACTED SO NERVOUS WHEN I SPOKE OF THOSE CRACKS!



OF COURSE IT'S SAFE! NEIL WOULDN'T BUILD ONE THAT WASN'T! AND WHY AM I SO UPSET? A GIRL HAS THE RIGHT TO PICK HER COMPANY! I'M OVER TWENTY-ONE!



The next few days went by in a whirl of excitement and fun with Neil! He took me to every amusement our small-town area afforded!



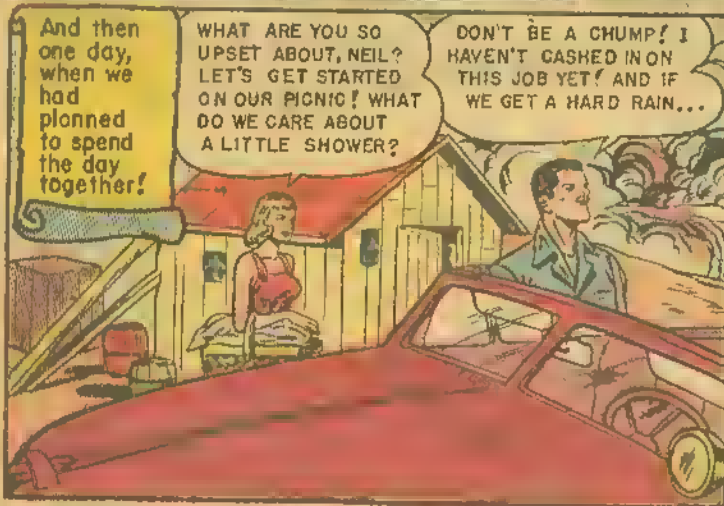
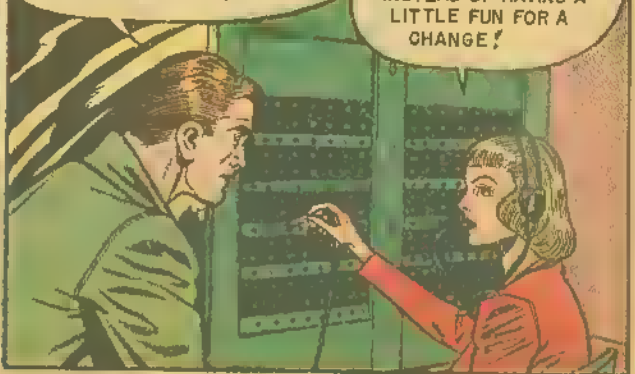
HAVING FUN, MONEY?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The only sour note in my fun was Red, whose presence could always awaken that faint, lingering doubt!

JUST REMEMBER, MYRTLE, IF THINGS EVER GO WRONG, I'LL BE WAITING AND HOPING YOU'LL COME BACK TO ME!

OH, DON'T BE SILLY! YOU'D THINK I WAS GOING TO MY OWN FUNERAL INSTEAD OF HAVING A LITTLE FUN FOR A CHANGE!

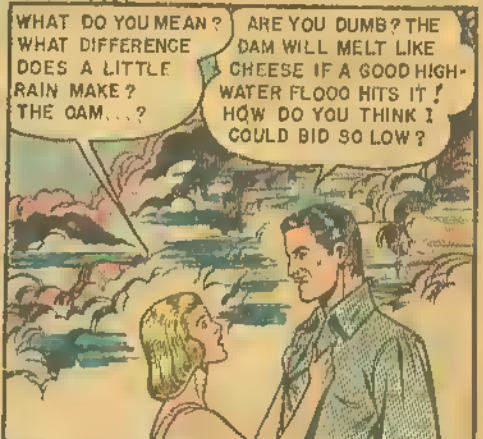


And then one day, when we had planned to spend the day together!

WHAT ARE YOU SO UPSET ABOUT, NEIL? LET'S GET STARTED ON OUR PICNIC! WHAT DO WE CARE ABOUT A LITTLE SHOWER?

DON'T BE A CHUMP! I HAVEN'T CASHED IN ON THIS JOB YET! AND IF WE GET A HARD RAIN...

Suddenly the fear came back, sharp and terrible...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES A LITTLE RAIN MAKE? THE DAM...

ARE YOU DUMB? THE DAM WILL MELT LIKE CHEESE IF A GOOD HIGH-WATER FLOOD HITS IT! HOW DO YOU THINK I COULD BID SO LOW?



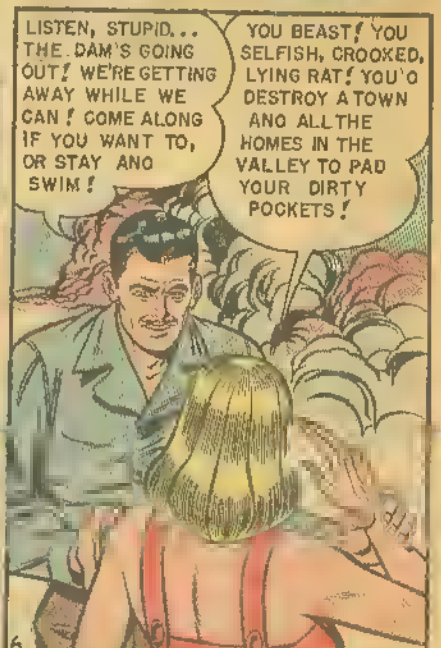
BOSS, WE GOTTA CLEAR OUT! THERE'S BEEN A CLOUDBURST BACK IN THE HILLS! ALL THE WATER IN THE WORLD IS HEADED DOWN THAT OUT!

I KNEW THIS SETUP WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST! GET THE BOYS OUT! WE MEET IN THE USUAL SPOT AFTER THE HEAT IS OFF!

In a moment of harsh agony, I opened my glamour-blinded eyes to the truth!



NEIL, WAIT! YOU MEAN THERE'S A FLOOD COMING TO SMASH THE DAM?



LISTEN, STUPID... THE DAM'S GOING OUT! WE'RE GETTING AWAY WHILE WE CAN! COME ALONG IF YOU WANT TO, OR STAY AND SWIM!

YOU BEAST! YOU SELFISH, CROOKED, LYING RAT! YOU'D DESTROY A TOWN AND ALL THE HOMES IN THE VALLEY TO PAD YOUR DIRTY POCKETS!

DIARY LOVES

GET SMART! I MADE A GAMBLE AND LOST! YOU DIDN'T OBJECT TO THE DOUGH I SPENT ON YOU! COME ALONG IF YOU WANT TO OR GET OUT!

I'M GETTING OUT! I'VE BEEN A BLIND FOOL... BUT MY EYES ARE WIDE OPEN NOW!



I whirled away in an excess of shame and anger... and my eyes fell on a cruel vengeance!

HEY, YOU STUPID SAPI! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

LET YOU KNOW HOW THE YOKELS FEEL ABOUT BEING TRAPPED IN FLOODS!



NOW LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE SWIMMING, MR. SMART GUY!

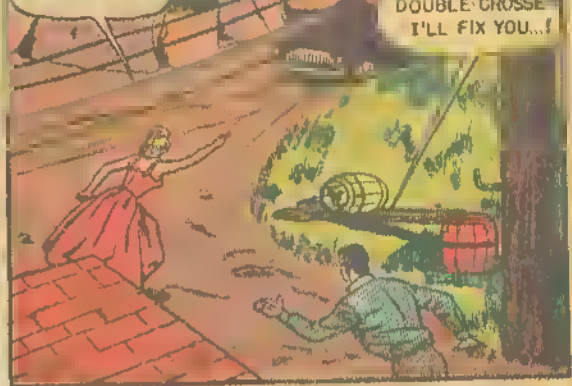
YOU TWO-TIMING LITTLE CHISELER! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YOU...



At that moment I saw the most wonderful sight on earth... Red Cody's telephone truck! I remembered he was coming out to fix a line break...

RED! RED!

YOU DOUBLE CROSSE I'LL FIX YOU...



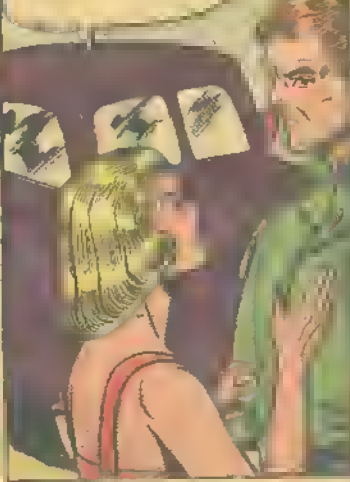
I'LL...
OOOOOFF!

BROTHER, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN SAVING A PUNCH LIKE THIS, JUST FOR YOUR CHIN!



RED... RED!
THERE'S A FLOOD COMING AND THE DAM WON'T HOLD! HE BUILT IT OUT OF BAD CONCRETE AND NOW HE PLANNED TO RUN AWAY!

OH, HE DID, DID HE...?



THAT'S WHERE HE'S ALL WET, HONEY! HE'S GOING RIGHT ALONG AND TAKE HIS CHANCES WITH THE REST! WE'LL GET OUT A DISASTER CALL!

DOTTY'S ON THE SWITCHBOARD AND SIMPLY PANICKY AT THE IDEA OF A FLOOD! I'LL TAKE OVER...



DIARY LOVES



FRIEND NEIL LOOKS LIKE HE'LL COOPERATE NOW!



I'LL RING DOTTY OVER THE PORTABLE AND TELL HER TO START CALLING FARMERS! SHE'LL HAVE TO HANG ON UNTIL WE GET TO TOWN!



YOU HEARD ME, DOTTY? START SENDING OUT THE DISASTER CALL ON ALL COUNTRY LINES AND STAND BY UNTIL WE GET THERE!

My heart was in my throat as Red jumped down and headed the truck for town! Hundreds of farm families in the valley were in danger!

ARE YOU SURE DOTTY WILL STICK ON THE JOB? EVER SINCE SHE LOST HER BROTHER IN A FLOOD, SHE'S BEEN TERRIFIED OF WATER!

SHE'LL STICK! BUT WE'VE GOT TO BEAT THE FLOOD CREST TO TOWN!



We were almost to town when we heard the terrible, ominous, earth-shaking roar of the dam bursting up the valley!



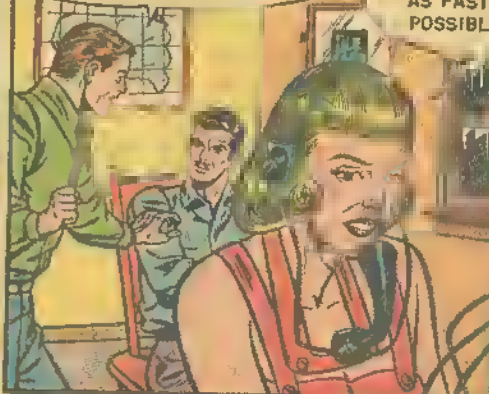
I'LL HANDLE THE BOARD, RED! TAKE DOTTY TO HIGH GROUND!

RIGHT, HONEY! SIT TIGHT! I'LL GET THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS GOING UP ON THE RIDGE AND THEN BE BACK FOR YOU!



SIT THERE, BUD! AND IF YOU MOVE, I'LL COME BACK AND KNOCK YOUR DIRTY HEAD OFF! NOT THAT I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE TO MOVE!

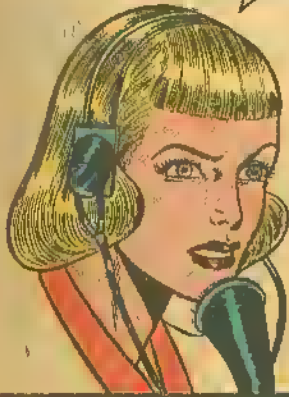
ATTENTION, ALL PHONES! DISASTER CALL! THE DAM HAS BROKEN! GET TO THE HIGH GROUND AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!



DIARY LOVES

Over the rumble of thunder I could hear the roar of water, but I had no time to be frightened! My only emotion was shame and regret---

DISASTER CALL!
DISASTER CALL!



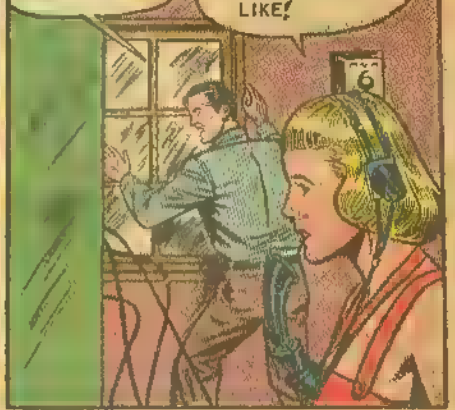
Then I heard the unmistakable roar and crash of the flood crest hitting the town---and Red had not yet returned! I was trapped!



But I was not alone! My shame was with me!

IT'S COMING! I'LL DIE HERE! YOU MURDERESS! I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED!

YOU'D RATHER SEE HUNDREDS TRAPPED IN THE FLOOD! NOW YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!

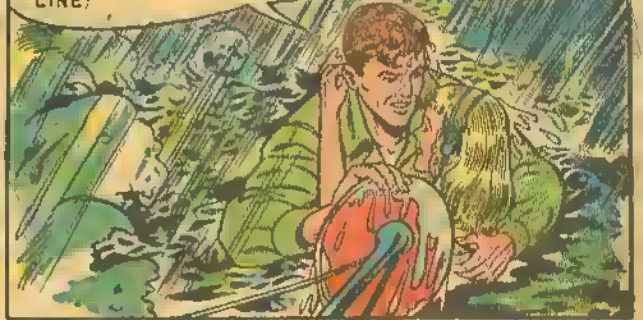


WE'LL BE DROWNED!

The world dissolved into wet, roaring blackness... and then I felt strong arms around me!

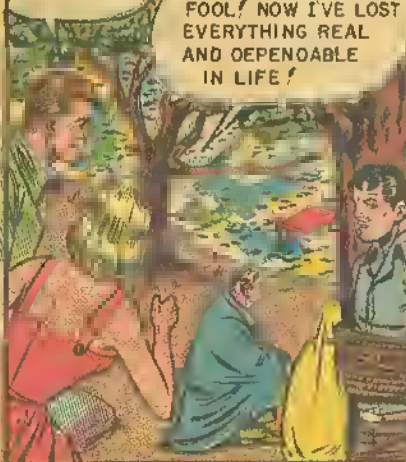
MYRTLE, DARLING! I GOT BACK AS QUICKLY AS I COULD! I HAD TO STRING AN EMERGENCY LINE!

RED...
RED...!



After what seemed an eternity...

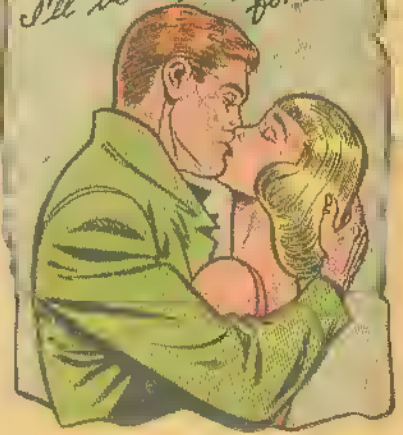
EVERY PERSON ESCAPED. THANKS TO YOUR DISASTER CALL! HONEY, YOU'RE A HEROINE! AND THE LAW HAS NEIL OH, RED, I'VE BEEN SUCH A TERRIBLE, HIDEOUS FOOL! NOW I'VE LOST EVERYTHING REAL AND DEPENDABLE IN LIFE!



YOU STILL HAVE EVERYTHING, HONEY---IF YOU WANT IT! I'VE BEEN WAITING TO TELL YOU--- I'M THE NEW MANAGER! AND A WIFE... IF YOU CAN STAND TO MARRY A FOOL! PLEASE DO IT QUICKLY, MY DARLING, SO I'LL NEVER BE IN DANGER AGAIN!



*Sorry, Diary!
I'm going on my honeymoon and you'll have to wait here in the drawer! I'm afraid I'll be awfully busy for awhile!*



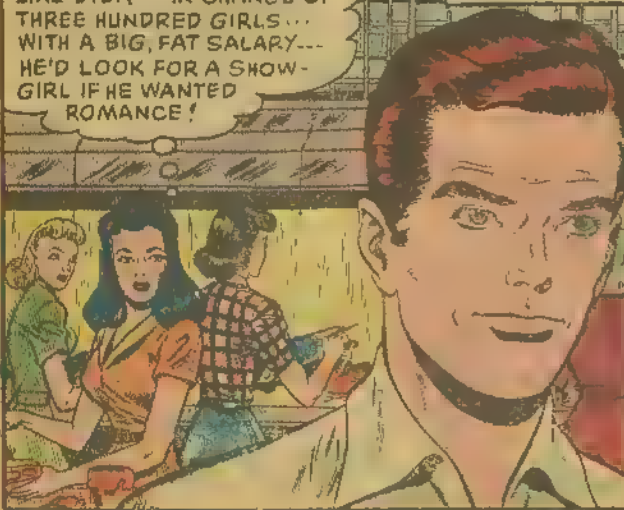
STEADFAST HEART



Must the life of a factory girl be one dull, drab day after another? Will I never know the thrill of love, the excitement of a kiss? Oh, if Dick Cole, our handsome young foreman, would only notice me, if he were suddenly to put his arm around me...

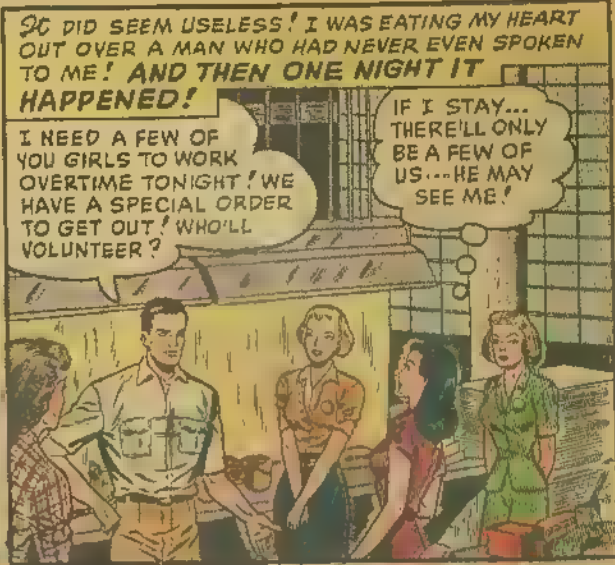
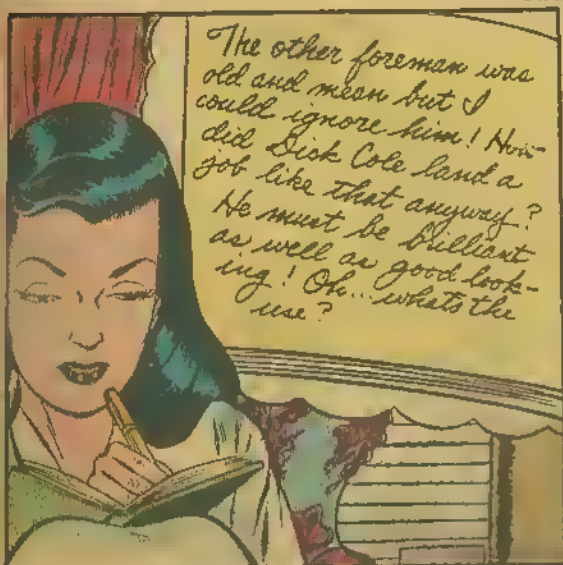


I'M A FOOL! A YOUNG FELLOW LIKE DICK... IN CHARGE OF THREE HUNDRED GIRLS... WITH A BIG, FAT SALARY... HE'D LOOK FOR A SHOW-GIRL IF HE WANTED ROMANCE!



I WISH HE HADN'T COME TO WORK HERE! I'VE BEEN MISERABLE SINCE HE ARRIVED THREE WEEKS AGO! OH, WELL, I CAN ALWAYS WEEP ALL OVER MY DIARY!





DIARY LOVES

IT SOUNDED WONDERFUL INDEED! AND WHEN WE HAD FINISHED OUR WORK, I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING WAS REAL!

WE'LL GO TO JACK AND MACK'S! THEY HAVE GOOD FOOD AND SWELL MUSIC!

BUT-- BUT I'M NOT DRESSED FOR IT!



NONSENSE! EVERYTHING'S NICE AND INFORMAL AT JACK AND MACK'S!

SURE! IT'S ONE OF THOSE PLACES WHERE RICH DEBS DROP IN IN SWEAT-SHIRTS AND JEANS JUST TO SHOW THEY'RE CASUAL AND UNCONVENTIONAL!



BUT IT WAS HARD TO FEEL ALL AT EASE IN DICK COLE'S PRESENCE!

NOTHING LIKE SOME OVERTIME WORK TO GIVE YOU AN APPETITE!

TO SAY NOTHING OF SOME EXTRA MONEY TO SPEND ON THE FOOD!



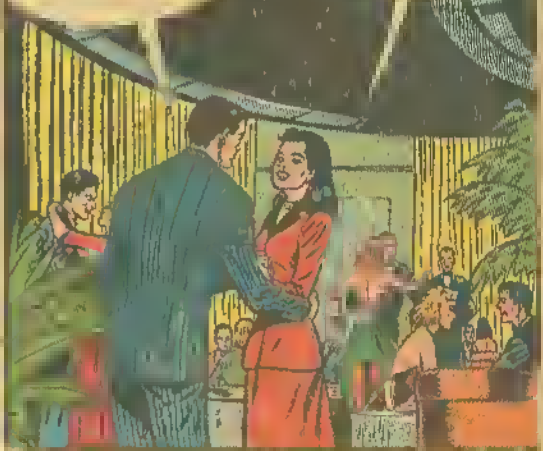
BY JUPITER, IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT SOMEHOW THAT A GIRL AS PRETTY AS YOU SHOULD HAVE TO SCRIMP AND SAVE AND ALWAYS WORRY ABOUT MONEY!

THANKS, DICK! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SOUND AS IF I WERE FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF!



NOW THAT WE'VE RESTORED OUR STRENGTH, SHALL WE DANCE?

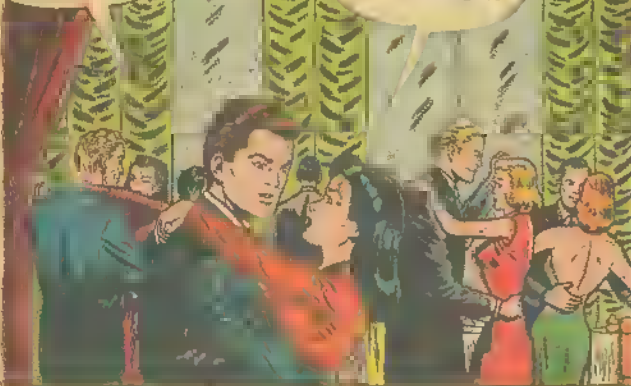
I'D LOVE IT!



THE FEEL OF DICK'S ARMS AROUND ME... THE WARMTH OF HIS CLOSENESS... MADE ME FORGET THE ENDLESS DRUDGERY, THE COLORLESS DAYS! THIS WAS BLISS!

YOU DANCE BEAUTIFULLY, ELLA!

I'M JUST FOLLOWING THE LEADER!



WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE STAYED THAT WAY? IT WAS LIKE FLOATING ON A SERENE SEA OF SWEETNESS! BUT SUDDENLY--

DICK, I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE WORKING LATE TONIGHT!

HELLO, CORA! I WAS!

GULP! IT'S MRS. MOSBY, THE OWNER OF THE FACTORY!



DIARY LOVES

MRS. MOSBY WAS THE WIDOW OF THE MAN WHO HAD FOUNDED THE HUGE TOY MANUFACTURING BUSINESS THAT EMPLOYED ME...

YOU MIGHT HAVE TOLD ME YOU'D BE FREE LATER! I'D HAVE WAITED FOR YOU!

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW, CORA!



HE CALLS HER BY HER FIRST NAME... AND SHE LOOKS AT HIM AS IF SHE OWNS HIM!

H'MM! I TAKE IT THIS YOUNG WOMAN MADE YOU DECIDE!



ER... THIS IS MISS WARING, MRS. MOSBY!

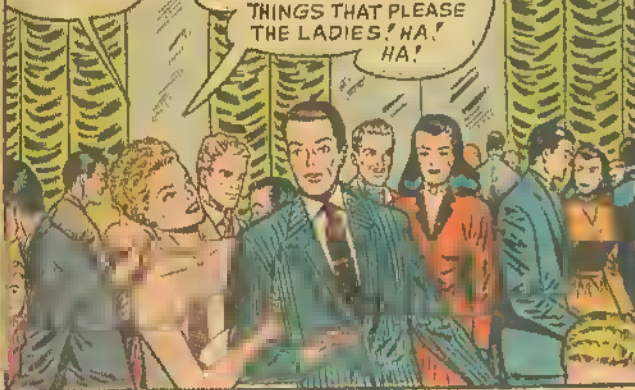
AND THIS IS FRANK CRUSE! ONE THING ABOUT FRANK, A LONE-SOME LADY CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON HIM IN AN EMERGENCY!



MY HEART SANK AS I SAW MRS. MOSBY DEFTLY MANEUVER DICK AWAY FROM ME!

YOU WILL DANCE WITH ME, WON'T YOU, DICK?

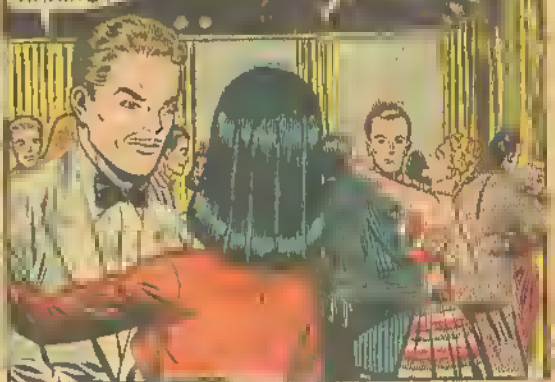
FRANK IS AN EXCELLENT DANCER, MISS WARING! IN FACT HE EXCELS AT MOST THINGS THAT PLEASE THE LADIES. HA! HA!



BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, I WAS BEING LED AROUND THE DANCE FLOOR BY THIS STRANGER!

HAVE YOU KNOWN DICK LONG, MISS WARING?

ER... NO... WE WORK TOGETHER!



OH, I SEE! ODD THAT MRS. MOSBY DIDN'T KNOW YOU IF YOU'RE AT THE PLANT OFFICE!

NOT AT ALL! I WORK IN THE FACTORY!



REALLY? HOW INTERESTING!

THAT DEPENDS ON THE POINT OF VIEW! COULD WE SIT DOWN? I'M TIRED!



IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT MRS. MOSBY HAD NO INTENTION OF RELEASING DICK...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, MISS WARING?

N NO!





I WOULDN'T FRET ABOUT DICK COLE IF I WERE YOU! HE'S DEFINITELY CORA MOSBY'S PROPERTY--- AND YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THAT CORA HANGS ONTO EVERYTHING SHE OWNS!

OH-H!

SO THAT WAS HOW DICK HAD LANDED A BIG JOB DESPITE HIS YOUTH! THIS WAS THE MAN I HAD THOUGHT WOULD SATISFY MY LONGING! AND THEN SUDDENLY, IT DAWNED ON ME... THAT MY BITTERNESS MEANT NOTHING... THAT WHAT HURT WAS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I LOVED HIM AND COULDN'T HAVE HIM!

EXCUSE ME! I'VE GOT TO GO!



I SPENT A HARD-EARNED TWO DOLLARS FOR A CAB HOME!



Oh, Diary, I am only writing to keep myself from going to pieces completely! Why did this have to happen to me? Why did I write it?

AT THAT MOMENT THERE WAS A KNOCK AT MY DOOR---

ELLA, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN AWAY! I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN! BUT MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAT YOU DID! AS SOON AS YOU WERE GONE, I REALIZED HOW MUCH YOU HAD BEGUN TO MEAN TO ME IN THE PAST FEW HOURS!

DICK... BUT THAT WOMAN...!



IT'S TRUE THAT I LET CORA MOSBY HELP ME INTO A GOOD JOB--- BUT IT WAS HER OWN IDEA! I PROMISED HER NOTHING! AND I'M DOING MY JOB WELL---EARNING MY SALARY! I'M UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO HER!

OH, DICK... I'M SO MIXED UP!

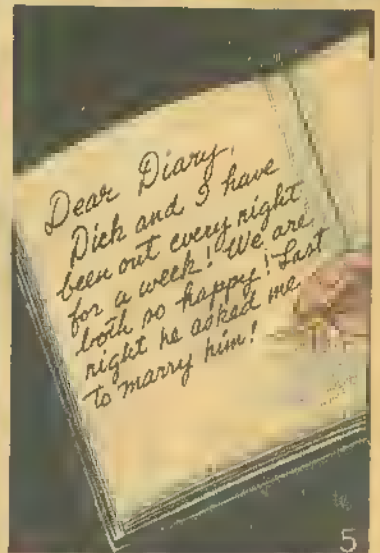


DON'T BE MIXED UP, ELLA! WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT I NEVER FELT SO BADLY ABOUT LOSING ANYBODY AS I DID WHEN I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU TONIGHT! BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, ELLA?

I WON'T EVEN TRY TO TALK ALL AROUND IT, DICK! I LOVE YOU!



Dear Diary, Dick and I have been out every night for a week! We are both so happy! Last night he asked me to marry him!



BUT WHATEVER POWER MAPPED OUT MY DESTINY NEVER MEANT IT TO BE ALL MOONLIGHT AND ROSES FOR VERY LONG! ONE EVENING AS I APPROACHED THE FACTORY OFFICE WHERE I WAS TO MEET DICK---

DON'T BE A FOOL, DICK! YOU CAN'T RUIN A GREAT FUTURE BY TYING YOURSELF TO A COMMON FACTORY GIRL! I KNOW HER BREED! SHE ONLY SEES YOU AS A GOOD MEAL TICKET! THEY ALL TAKE THEIR LOVE LIGHTLY!

THAT'S ENOUGH, CORA! I WON'T LISTEN TO ANOTHER WORD!

IT'S DICK AND MRS. MOSBY!

PRIVATE

I WAS TOO WRETCHED TO KEEP MY APPOINTMENT WITH DICK! I LEFT THE FACTORY AND PHONED HIM FROM OUTSIDE!

I DON'T FEEL WELL! DICK! I'M GOING HOME!

I HAD BEEN HOME LESS THAN AN HOUR WHEN FRANK CRUSE SUDDENLY WALKED IN!

MR. CRUSE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR A LONG TIME, ELLA, BUT SINCE I FIRST MET YOU YOUR TIME'S BEEN MONOPOLIZED BY DICK COLE! I HEARD YOU WEREN'T SEEING HIM TONIGHT SO I THOUGHT WE MIGHT RENEW OUR ACQUAINTANCE!

THE NEXT INSTANT I WAS IN HIS ARMS, STRUGGLING DESPERATELY TO BREAK AWAY!

QUIT PRETENDING, BABY! I'VE HAD A YEN FOR YOU SINCE I FIRST MET YOU!

LET ME GO--- LET ME GO!

AND THEN THE WORLD SEEMED TO COME TUMBLING DOWN AROUND MY EARS! IN THE DOORWAY STOOD DICK AND MRS. MOSBY!

THERE! I TOLD YOU YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM, DICK!

ELLA--- HOW COULD YOU---

HOLD ON, COLE! YOU'VE GOT THIS WRONG! AND YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, CORA!

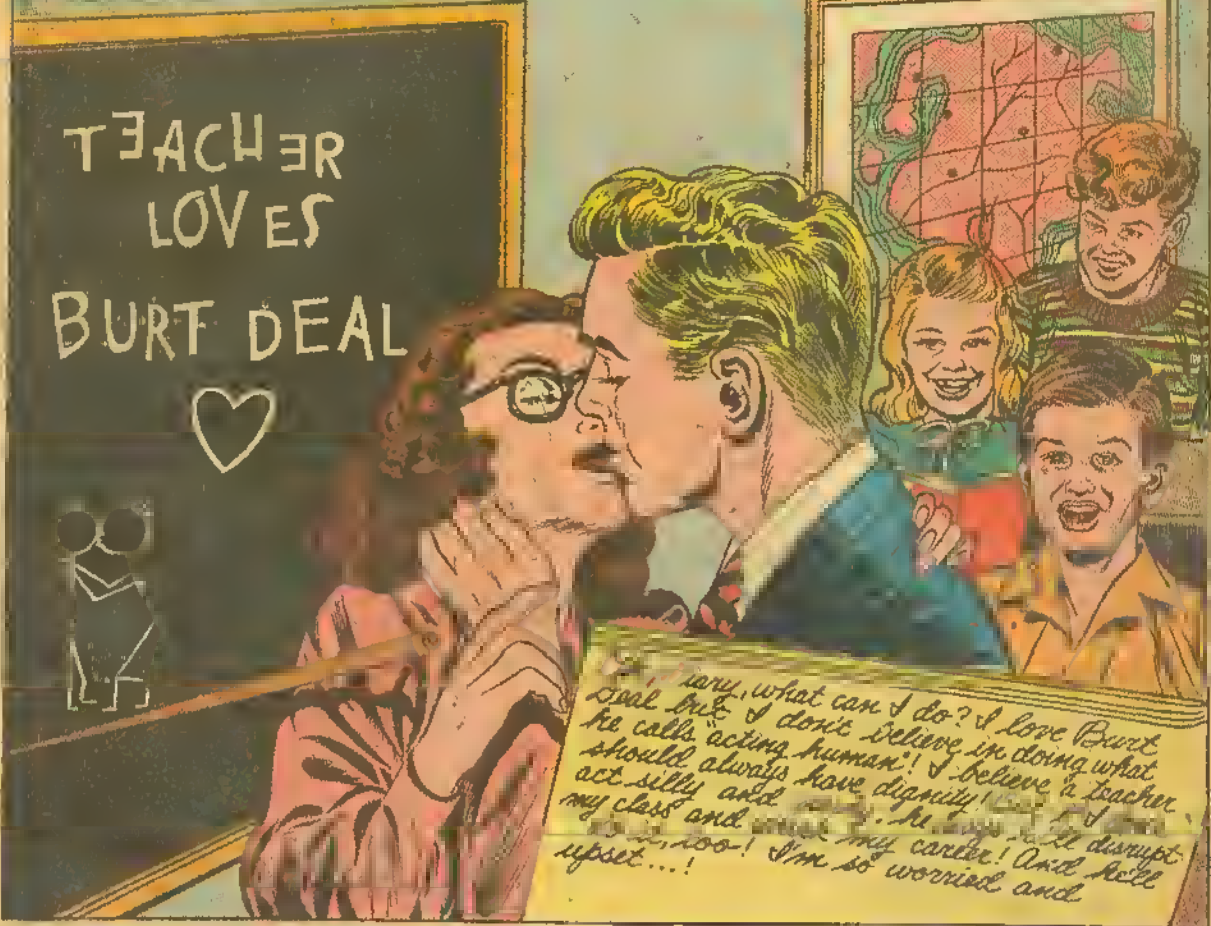
I MAY NOT BE A NICE GUY BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS BEING USED JUST TO QUEER ELLA WITH YOU, COLE! CORA CALLED ME A LIAR! SHE GOES AND SAID ELLA WOULD BE ALONE AND WOULDN'T MIND SEEING ME!

I GET IT! YOU HEARD ME TALKING TO ELLA ON THE PHONE AND YOU FIGURED YOU'D USE THIS WOLF TO PROVE YOUR POINT! THAT WAS WHY YOU TOOK ME TO DROP IN ON ELLA IF SHE WAS SICK!

YOU CAN ACCEPT MY RESIGNATION AS OF TODAY, CORA! AS FOR YOU, CRUSE, I'M TOO HAPPY TO SOCK YOU NOW--- BUT YOU'LL GET IT IF I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

My days are dull and drab no more! I am basking in the sunshine of Dick's love and affection!

Lesson in LOVE



...now, what can I do? I love Burt Deal but I don't believe in doing what he calls acting human! I believe a teacher should always have dignity! I act silly and my class and ... he ... my career! It disrupts ...! I'm so worried and

I've never had much fun out of life and I took my job as teacher seriously! When I graduated from Normal College...

ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOUNG LADIES, YOUR PUPILS PATTERN THEMSELVES AFTER YOU! ALWAYS ACT AS YOU WOULD EXPECT YOUR STUDENTS TO ACT!



The only man that ever paid any attention to me was the Principal at Ridgeland Schools! Poor Mr. Merckle...

YOU'VE CARRIED MY BOOKS TWICE THIS WEEK, MR. MERCKLE! DON'T YOU THINK THE PUPILS MIGHT MIS-INTERPRET THINGS IF YOU DO IT AGAIN?

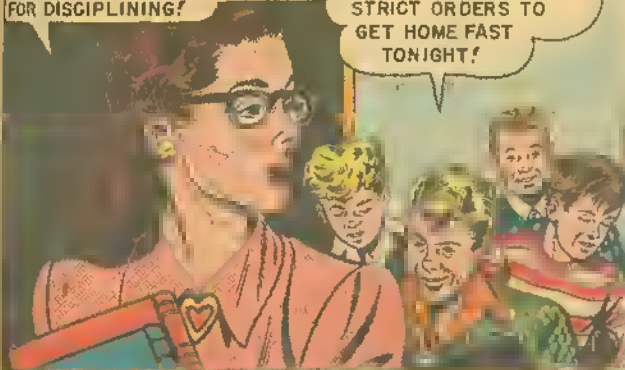
ER, PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, MISS TROY! WE TEACHERS MUST WATCH OUR HABITS, YOU KNOW!



I enjoyed teaching at Ridgeland and I adored my pupils...all except Marty Deal!

CLASS DISMISSED... ALL EXCEPT MARTIN DEAL! MARTIN, YOU WILL REMAIN AFTER CLASS FOR DISCIPLINING!

OKAY, TEACHER... BUT MY BIG BROTHER AIN'T GONNA LIKE IT! HE GIVE ME STRICT ORDERS TO GET HOME FAST TONIGHT!



MARTIN, WHY CAN'T YOU LEARN TO BEHAVE? IF YOU'D FOLLOW ORDERS, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP YOU AFTER SCHOOL DAY AFTER DAY!

AW, RULES GIVE ME A HEAD-ACHE! MY BROTHER BURT SAYS RULES WAS MADE TO BE BUSTED, ANYHOW!



YOU MAY GO TONIGHT, BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN MY CLASS, YOU WILL OBEY RULES! IF YOUR BROTHER DOESN'T LIKE IT, HE CAN SEE ME!

YOU SHOULD SEE HIM, TEACHER! THAT BURT'S A HANDSOME HUNK OF MAN, I CAN TELL YOU! YOU'LL FALL LIKE ALL THE GALS DO!



WHY, OF ALL THE...! NO WONDER I CAN'T TEACH THAT LITTLE RUFFIAN ANYTHING CIVILIZED! THE VERY IDEA! SO I'LL "FALL" WILL I? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!



Today I had the most shocking experience at school...

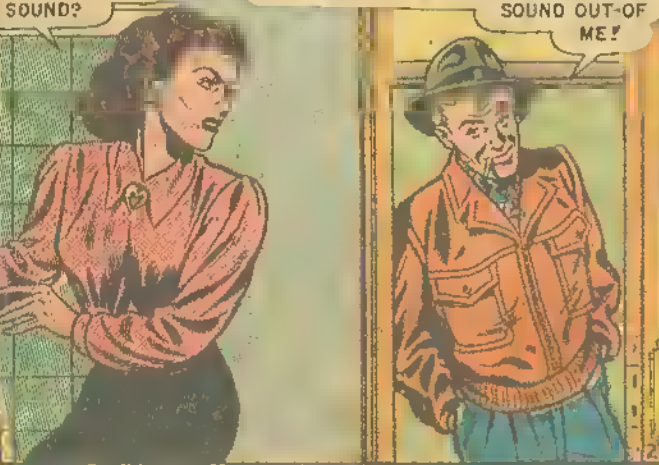
WELL, WOO-WOO!

WHA...? OF ALL THINGS!



I *BEG* YOUR PARDON! DID YOU MAKE THAT DISGRACEFUL SOUND?

I MADE A SOUND, HONEY...BUT HONEST ADMIRATION IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF! DARN FEW BABES CAN DRAW THAT SOUND OUT-OF ME!



I'M BURT DEAL! I UNDERSTAND YOU AND MY KID BROTHER DON'T JIBE ON RULES SO I DROPPED IN TO STRAIGHTEN YOU OUT!

STRAIGHTEN *ME* OUT? YOU'D BETTER STRAIGHTEN *YOURSELF* OUT! THE IDEA OF ENCOURAGING A CHILD TO REBEL AGAINST RULES!



DIARY LOVES

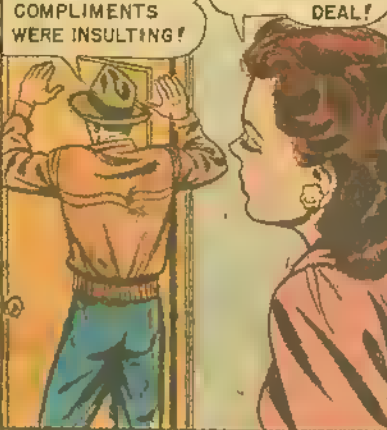
HMM! A LITTLE HONEST REBELLION WOULDN'T HURT YOU ANY, KIDDO! WHAT YOU DO TO MOTHER NATURE IS A CRIME AND A SHAME! YOU'RE NEAT...

WHY... WHY, HOW DARE YOU? OF ALL THE INSULTING, IMPUDENT...



OKAY, OKAY! I GIVE UP! I'LL SAY YOU LOOK LIKE A COW, IF IT'LL MAKE YOU ANY HAPPIER! I DON'T KNOW COMPLIMENTS WERE INSULTING!

MY APPEARANCE IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS! I CAN DO WITHOUT YOUR CRUDE OPINIONS, MR. DEAL!



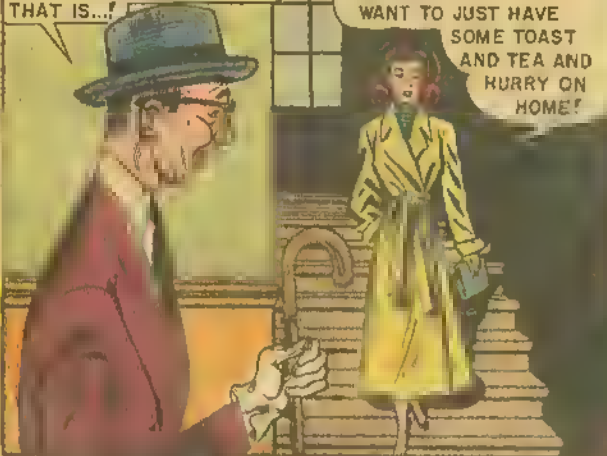
After Burt Deal left I was so upset I didn't know what I was doing...!

HMM! HE REALLY THINKS I'M NICE LOOKING...! ALICE TROY, WHAT ON EARTH HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU? IS THAT ANY WAY FOR A TEACHER TO ACT? FOR SHAME!



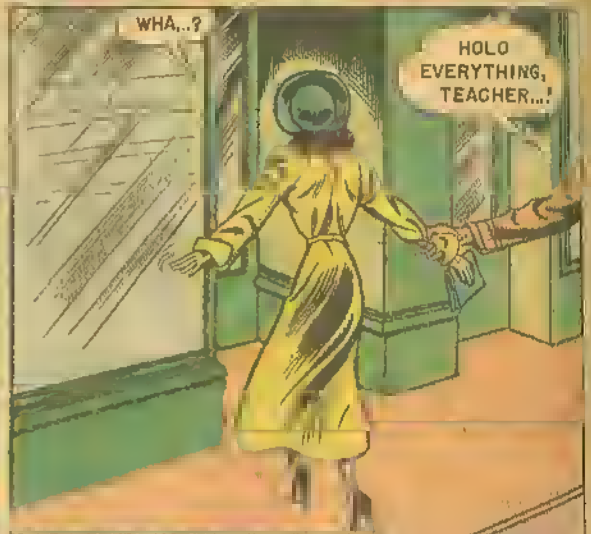
OH, ER... IF YOU'RE GOING TO DINNER, MISS TROY, I THOUGHT PERHAPS WE MIGHT... UH, THAT IS...!

I'M SORRY, MR. MERCKLE, BUT I HAVE A SPLITTING HEADACHE TONIGHT! I WANT TO JUST HAVE SOME TOAST AND TEA AND HURRY ON HOME!



WHA...?

HOLD EVERYTHING, TEACHER...!



YOU AGAIN! I'M SURE WE HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO DISCUSS, SO WILL YOU KINDLY...?

UH-UH! THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, HONEY! I'VE BEEN BONING UP ON SOME RULES, MYSELF!



THE BOOK SAYS THE TEACHER MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO DISCUSS A PUPIL'S PROBLEMS WITH PARENT OR GUARDIAN... AND I'M MARTY'S GUARDIAN! THEN YOU WILL CALL AT THE SCHOOLROOM AT THE PROPER TIME... AND CONFINE YOUR DISCUSSION TO YOUR BROTHER'S CONDUCT!



CAN'T, HONEY! I WORK FOR A LIVING! AND THE RULES SAY TEACHER MUST ADJUST HERSELF TO THE PARENT'S AVAILABLE TIME! THIS IS IT! VERY WELL! SINCE YOU ARE DETERMINED TO BE OBNOXIOUS, WE'LL HAVE OUR DISCUSSION RIGHT HERE! PROCEED!



DIARY LOVES

OH, NO! I'M HUNGRY BUT I'M NOT THE TEAROOM TYPE, HONEY! WE'LL DISCUSS THINGS IN HERE WHERE WE CAN RELAX!

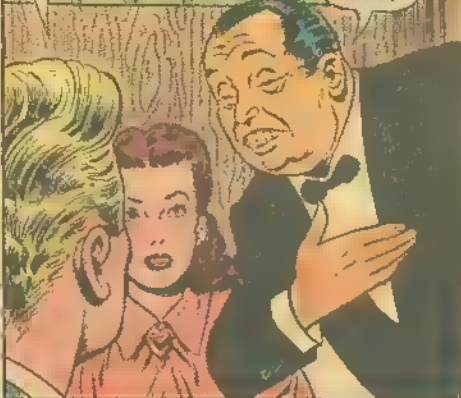
BUT... BUT... I DON'T... I'VE NEVER...! NOW, SEE HERE...!

PICK OUT YOUR BEST DINNERS, MOY! WE'VE GOT TO CONVINCE THE LITTLE LADY HERE, THAT LIFE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL!

MY PLACE IS HONORED, MR. DEAL! I WILL ASK THE ORCHESTRA TO PLAY YOUR FAVORITE DANCE MUSIC WHILE YOU WAIT!

BUT I DON'T DANCE! PLEASE, IT ISN'T PROPER...!

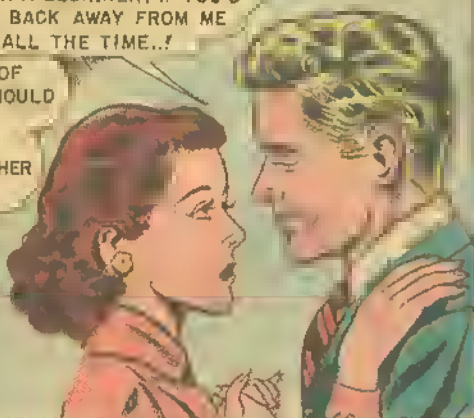
TUT-TUT! I'D BE ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT, IF I WERE YOU! YOUR EDUCATION HAS CERTAINLY BEEN NEGLECTED... UP TO NOW!



Oh, Diary... I'll tell you a secret! I have a natural sense of rhythm! Bert said so!

SAY, DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT BAD AT ALL FOR A BEGINNER! IF YOU'D QUIT TRYING TO BACK AWAY FROM ME ALL THE TIME...!

BUT IF SOME OF THE PARENTS SHOULD SEE ME, I'D BE MORTIFIED TO DEATH! IT'S RATHER FUN, THOUGH!



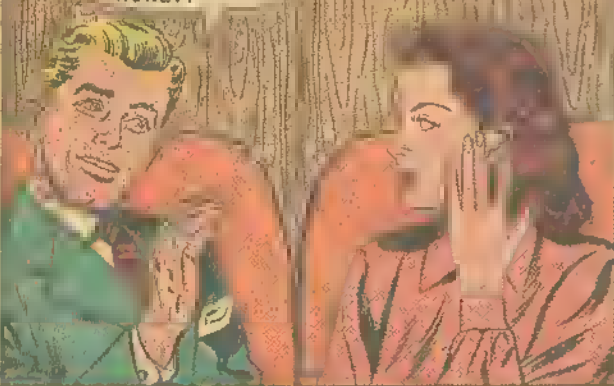
HOW DO YOU LIKE MOY'S GOO YI PIN, HONEY?

IT'S DELICIOUS! I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE! YOU SEE, A TEACHER CAN'T RELAX LIKE OTHER GIRLS! I MUST BE DIGNIFIED...!



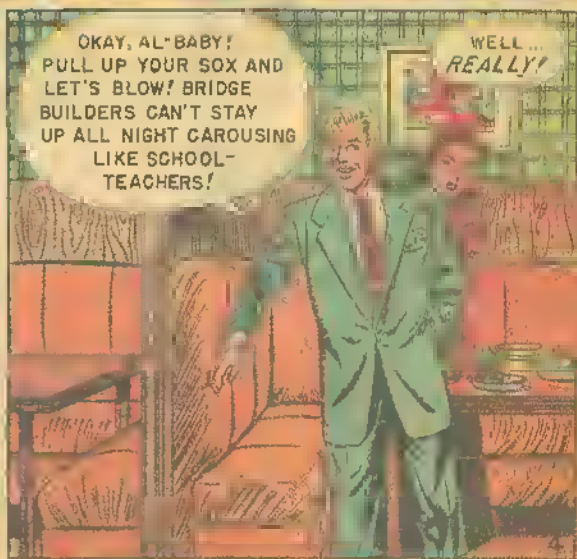
HOGWASH! THERE'S NO LAW SAYS TEACHERS HAVE TO BE DOPES! THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH EDUCATION! YOU JUST GOT A BUM STEER, HONEY!

OH...! AND STOP CALLING ME "HONEY"! IF YOU MUST BE INFORMAL, MY NAME IS ALICE!

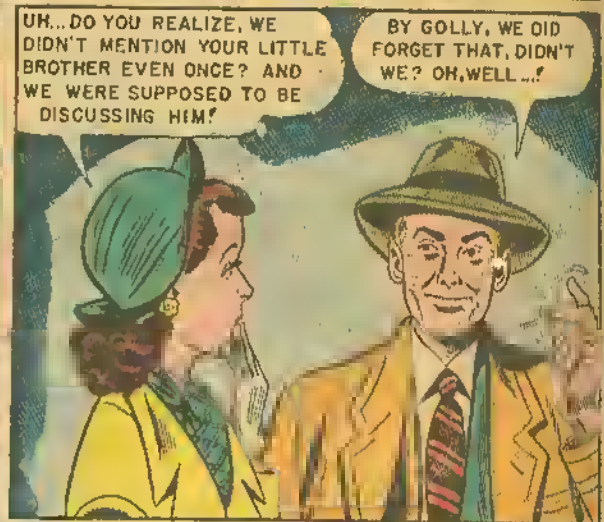
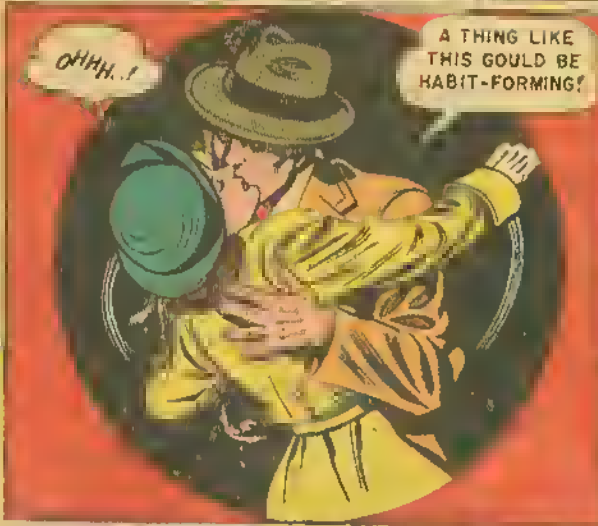
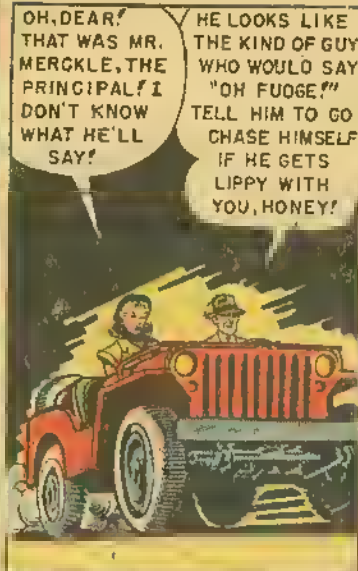


OKAY, AL-BABY! PULL UP YOUR SOX AND LET'S BLOW! BRIDGE BUILDERS CAN'T STAY UP ALL NIGHT CAROUSING LIKE SCHOOL-TEACHERS!

WELL... REALLY!



DIARY LOVES



Next morning everything looked different to me!

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT EVER GOT INTO ME LAST NIGHT! I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD! I HOPE NONE OF MY PUPILS HEAR OF MY CONDUCT!

Mr. Merckle was waiting when I arrived!

MISS TROY, I HARDLY NEED TELL YOU HOW DEEPLY SHOCKED AND HURT I WAS AT YOUR ACTIONS OF LAST EVENING! YOU... OF ALL PERSONS!

BUT... BUT, YOU MISUNDERSTAND, MR. MERCKLE! MR. DEAL CAME TO DISCUSS HIS LITTLE BROTHER'S SCHOOL WORK!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT, MISS TROY! IF SUCH CONDUCT CONTINUES, I SHALL HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR RESIGNATION!

MARTIN!

AW, THAT STUFFED SHIRT GIVES ME A PAIN! I HEAR YOU AND BURT CUT A RUG LAST NIGHT! WHAT'D YOU DO TO HIM, ANYHOW?

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, YOUNG MAN! AND I ASSURE YOU, I DID NOTHING TO YOUR BROTHER! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BABE'S NEVER BOTHERED HIM BEFORE BUT HE KEPT ME AWAKE HALF THE NIGHT, PACING THE FLOOR AND TALKING TO HIMSELF! I THINK HE'S IN LOVE!

UHP! PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEAT, AND CONCENTRATE ON YOUR SCHOOL WORK, MARTIN! AND KEEP YOUR OPINIONS TO YOURSELF!

OKAY, BUT IF ANYTHING COMES OF THIS... DON'T FORGET I'M PART OF THE FAMILY, TOO!

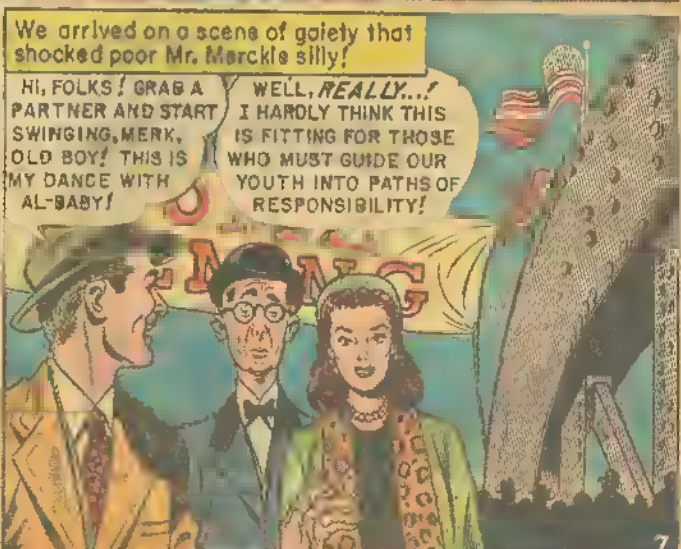
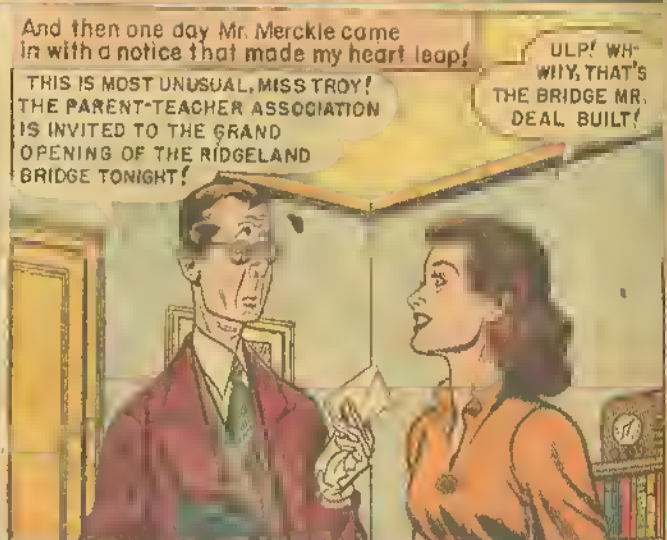
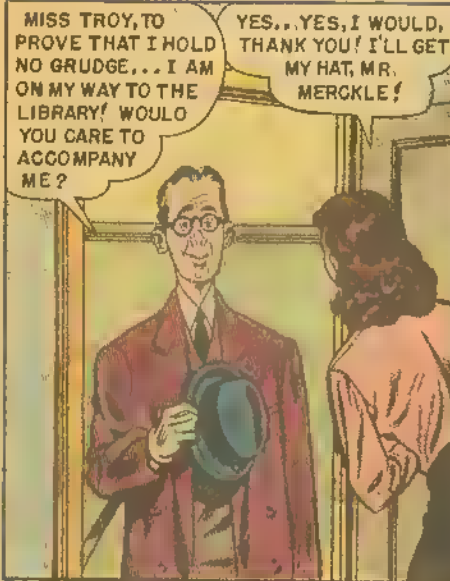
I NEVER HEARD OF SUCH BRAZEN IMPUENCE!

When school let out that afternoon, I knew what I had to do!

MARTIN, PLEASE TELL YOUR BROTHER NOT TO CALL FOR ME! WE HAVE NOTHING TO DISCUSS TONIGHT OR ANY OTHER NIGHT!

I'LL TELL HIM... BUT HE WON'T LIKE BEING STOOD UP, TEACHER! I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN YOUR BOOTS!

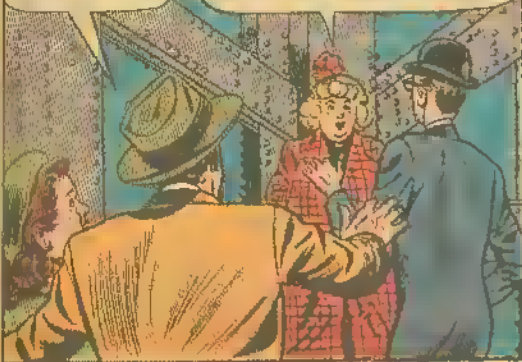
DIARY LOVES



Burt practically threw Mr. Merkle into the arms of Miss Harkness from the Fifth Grade!

HERE, BUBBLES! TAKE YOURSELF A BOY FRIEND AND CUT A RUG!

TEE-HEE! COME ON, HORACE! THE ORCHESTRA'S WONDERFUL AND I JUST *KNOW* YOU'RE A HEAVENLY DANCER!



BUT...BUT...WHAT WILL YOUR FIFTH GRADERS SAY, MISS HARKNESS? I'LL ADMIT, I WAS ONCE CONSIDERED QUITE A DANCER, BUT...!

TEE-HEE! WHY NOT ASK THEM, HORACE? THERE THEY ARE! I WONDER IF *WE* COULD JITTERBUG LIKE THAT?



I was dazed! Even the staid old Mr. Lathrap, President of the School Board, was hopping around gaily...

BURT DEAL...YOU DELIBERATELY PLANNED THIS TO PUNCTURE OUR DIGNITY!

YEP, HONEY...AND YOU CAN'T SAY IT DIDN'T WORK! I'VE BEEN NOSING AROUND AND I DISCOVERED HARKNESS HAD AN AWFUL CRUSH ON MERCKLE!



ULP! H-HULLD, MR. LATHRDP! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU...ER...WENT IN FOR FRIVOLITIES!

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE A STUFFED SHIRT, MERK! I ALMOST VOTED TO HIRE A YOUNGER PRINCIPAL! GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE HUMAN!



OH, BURT, IT SEEMS WONDERFUL...LIKE JUST STARTING TO LIVE! NOW TEACHING WILL BE FUN!

NOT FOR YOU, HONEY! YOU'RE THROUGH THE END OF THIS TERM! I'VE ALREADY HANDED IN YOUR RESIGNATION FOR YOU!



HOW DARE YOU MEDDLE IN MY AFFAIRS? OF ALL THE....!

UH-UH-UH! I WON'T HAVE A WIFE THAT WORKS! IF YOU EXPECT TO MARRY ME, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO STAYING HOME AND BEING BOSSED!



DARLING, I THINK I'LL LEARN TO LOVE IT!

TEE-HEE! WHY HORACE MERCKLE, YOU *DICKENS*, YOU!



LOVE'S ESCAPE

Monday:— Dear Diary, I met the nerviest fellow today. He came into the diner about ten tonight, a big, red-headed truck driver. I was talking to Ralph in a corner booth because no one else was in the diner and I had nothing to do. When I got up to wait on the truck driver, Ralph caught my hand and kissed me before I could slip away. I said, "Ralph, stop that!"

The truck driver had seen it in the mirror. He swung around from the counter with a scowl on his face. "Is that lounge lizard bothering you, Miss?" he demanded, and looked as if he would like to knock Ralph through the wall. Ralph said, "Mind your own business, wise guy." I was afraid of trouble so I got between them. "Everything's all right. What's your order, Mister?"

Ralph stalked out in a minute but his eyes weren't pleasant and his face was white. The red-head sipped his coffee and watched me. "Don't tell me you go for that patent-leather heel," he said after a while.

I was so furious I snapped at him, "Ralph happens to be my fiancee, if it's any of your business—which I doubt."

His eyes widened. He didn't say any more but the way he looked at me made my cheeks burn. I was glad when he stalked out but afterward I couldn't get him out of my mind. I suppose some girls would have been crazy to catch his interest. He is good looking and you can tell he's nice. Maybe Ralph is sort of flashy and he runs around with a crowd I don't like, but he's promised to take me away from the diner and give me a nice home. If I married somebody else—a truck driver, for instance—I'd just work, work, work. I might as well stay a waitress. At least, in the diner I'd get paid.

Tuesday:— The driver came again tonight and we talked. He apologized for interfering. His name is Red Chamberlain and he's working to save enough money for his own truck line. We had a nice talk until Ralph came in about ten-thirty and gave Red an awfully nasty look. When he got me alone, Ralph hissed, "If I see that monkey in here again, he's going to get hurt. Send him packing, Elsie." When I tried to argue that I couldn't kick a customer out, Ralph twisted my wrist. It hurt but I didn't dare make a sound, for Red was right beyond

us, at the counter. Tonight I'm frightened. I wish I had never seen Ralph. He's mean and vicious and now I wonder if he really means all the promises he keeps making. I know Red would keep his word. There's something in his eyes and his straightforward smile that makes you feel warm and trustful.

Wednesday:— This terrible night is finally over. Neither Red nor Ralph showed up at nine-thirty or ten and by eleven I began to be afraid. Then the door opened and Red staggered in. He was all torn and bloody. One arm was bandaged and he had a big cut on his head. He staggered to the counter. "Hijackers," he mumbled and tried to grin with smashed lips. "Caught my truck a mile up the road. Quite a fight. There were three of them. I'll phone the cops after I have some coffee. I need it."

I brought the coffee and was fixing a fresh bandage on Red's arm when the kitchen door swung open and Ralph sauntered through. He hadn't been there before, but now he said, "It's fixed now, Sugar. It was a loose wire behind the stove that did it. If you can tear yourself away, I'll have my coffee, now."

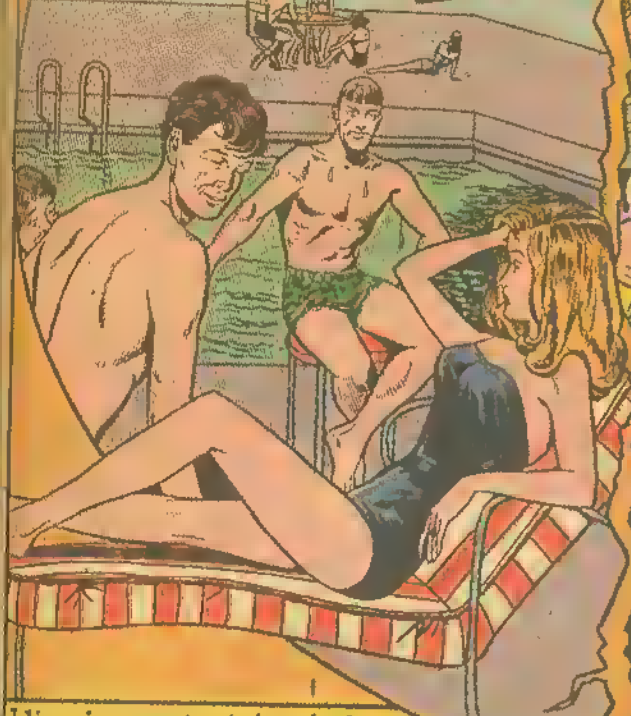
Red was eyeing him narrowly. "Has this guy been here the whole evening, Elsie?" I held my breath. Ralph's eyes looked murder at me as I hesitated. I knew what he wanted me to say. I was to tell Red Ralph had been there for hours, out in the kitchen fixing something that broke down.

Suddenly I understood a lot of things. I saw why Ralph hung around the diner, why he pumped me about truck drivers and where they were going and what they carried. There had been an epidemic of hijacking lately.

I had a pan of boiling water ready to pour into the coffee urn. I looked at Red. "No, he hasn't, Red," I said quietly. "He just slid in through a back window. I won't lie for him."

I saw Ralph clawing a gun from under his coat, saw Red whirl around with his fists up and then I threw the pan of boiling water right into Ralph's face. It was over in a minute and the police took Ralph away. They say he was finger man for the hijack gang. Red told me when he brought me home. He says he'll explain more about it when we have our date tomorrow night. I'm not afraid any more.

A Double Life



Oh, Diary, how much longer must this terrible double life go on? How long can I stand the crushing weight of my dark secret? I know it is only a matter of time until someone finds out the truth and exposes my shame to the world! How the scandal sheets would love it! I can see their screaming headlines: *Heiress To Fortune By Day... Waterfront Taxi Driver By Night!* But I can't stop now! I've gone too far to quit...

I live in constant dread of exposure, and Don Mobry doesn't make life any easier for me!

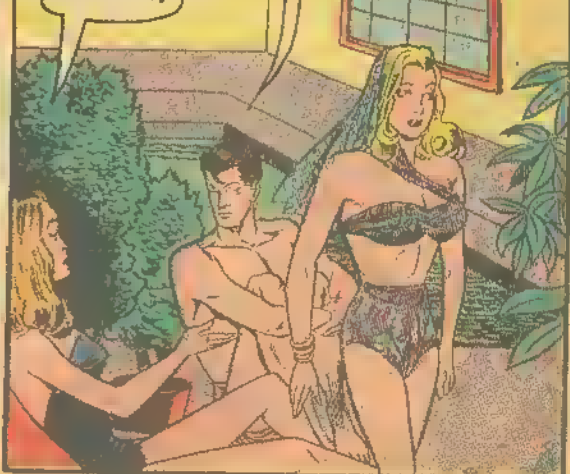
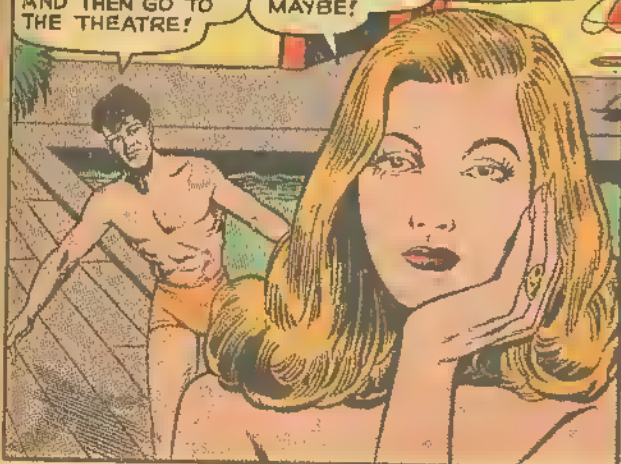
BUT, DORIS, I'VE GOT ORCHESTRA SEATS FOR TONIGHT! WE COULD HAVE DINNER AND THEN GO TO THE THEATRE!

TO, OON, REALLY I WOULD! BUT SOMETHING ELSE HAS COME UP THAT I CAN'T AVOID! SOME OTHER TIME MAYBE!

I'D LOVE

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE KIT, OON? SHE'D LIKE TO GO AND I KNOW SHE ISN'T BUSY TONIGHT!

YOUR SISTER'S A SWEET KID AND I LIKE HER A LOT... BUT IT'S STILL YOU I WANT!



LOOK, IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THE THEATRE, AT LEAST HAVE DINNER WITH ME! I PROMISE TO LET YOU GO ANY TIME YOU HAVE TO!

WELL... ALL RIGHT, DON! I HATE TO WRECK YOUR WHOLE EVENING, BUT I'LL GO, PROVIDING I CAN LEAVE PROMPTLY AT EIGHT!

Why did I weaken and promise to dine with Don? It just makes everything harder! Yet he's so fine and sincere I can't hurt him!

I'VE GOT TO HURRY AND DRESS FOR DINNER! I'LL FINISH THIS LATER!

IF I WERE AS MYSTERIOUS AS YOU, DORIS, I'D BE AFRAID TO KEEP A DIARY! I ALWAYS THOUGHT SISTERS SHARED THEIR SECRETS!

NOT THIS ONE, KIT! MAYBE SOME DAY, BUT NOT YET! AND SPEAKING OF SECRETS, MY PET...

THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT DON MOBBY IS NO SECRET! I'M THINKING OF GOING AWAY FOR AWHILE TO GIVE YOU A CLEAR FIELD!

DON'T DO THAT! I KNOW YOU DON'T LOVE HIM LIKE I DO, BUT HE CAN'T SEE ANYONE BUT YOU! HE'D ONLY MOPE FOR YOU EVEN WORSE!

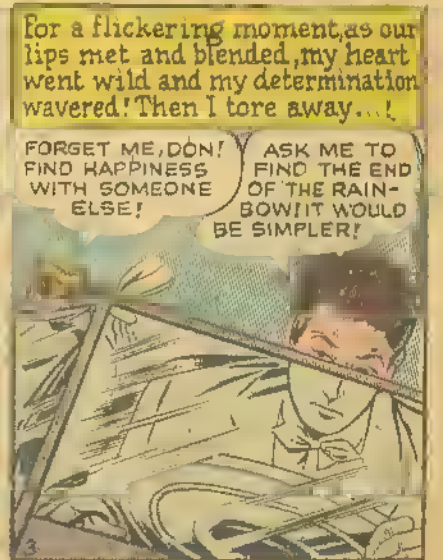
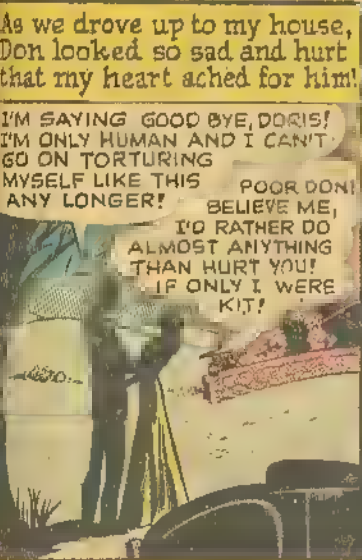
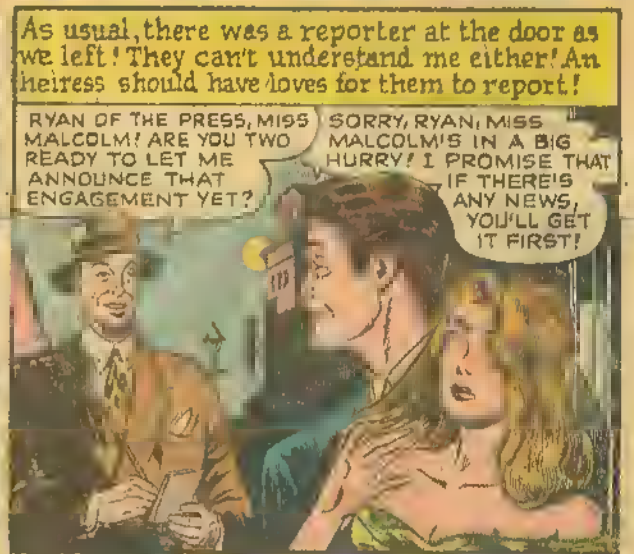
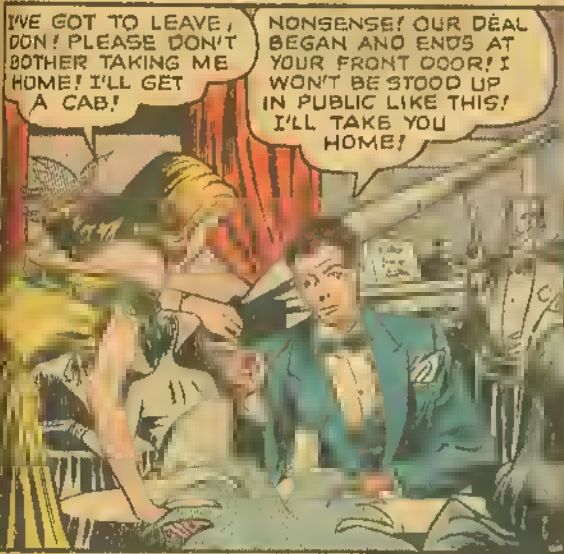
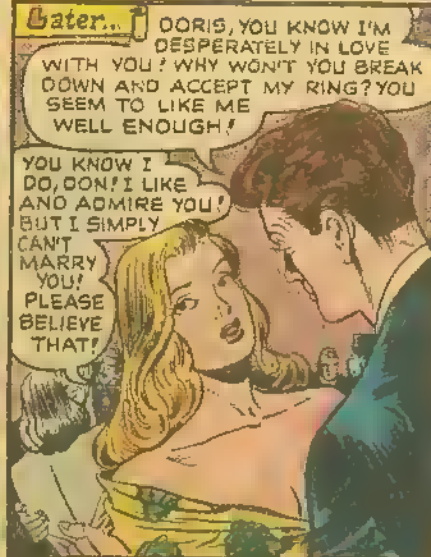
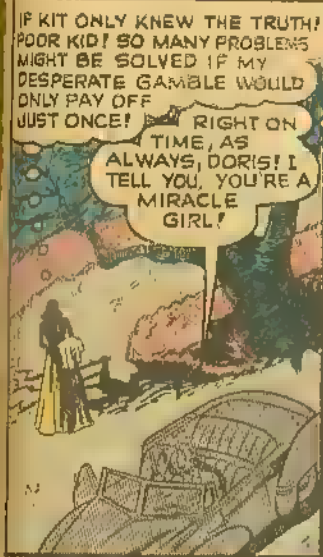
ONLY I THINK YOU'RE CRAZY, DORIS, NOT TO GRAB DON! HE'S WONDERFUL AND NINE! DON'T STEP ASIDE FOR ME!

I'M NOT, HONEY! I ADMIRE DON AND LIKE HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T STIR MY HEART! KEEP HOPING, KIT! SOME DAY YOUR CHANCE MAY COME!

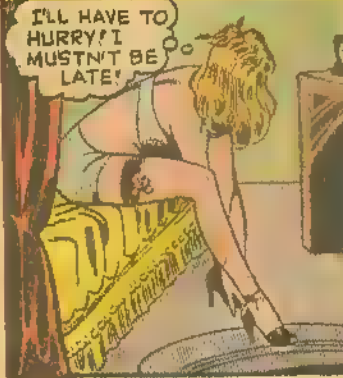
ONLY SOMETIMES I WONDER IF MY BIG SISTER HAS A HEART! I'VE NEVER SEEN THE MAN WHO COULD MAKE YOUR EYES SPARKLE!

SOME TIME YOU WILL, KIT! I PROMISE YOU! GOOD NIGHT, DEAR!

DIARY LOVES



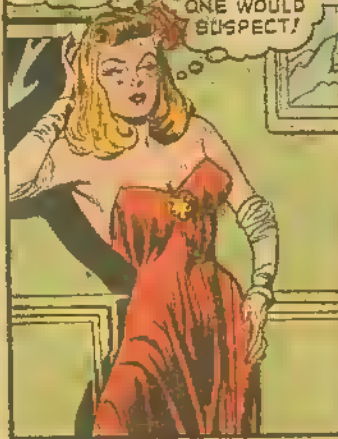
Then I ran to my room to change my dress and my identity... to leave the wealthy heiress, Doris Malcolm behind and to become that secret other figure...



I'LL HAVE TO HURRY! I MUSTN'T BE LATE!

Dolly, the taxi dancer!

I PHONED A CAB TO PICK ME UP AT ELM AND NINTH! THAT'S FAR ENOUGH FROM HERE SO NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT!



LUCK WAS WITH ME AGAIN! NONE OF THE SERVANTS SAW ME SLIP OUT!



I had practiced that other personality until I even talked like another person!

TO THE SAILORS' DELIGHT DANCE HALL, SONNY, AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSES! MUSTN'T KEEP THE BOYS WAITING YOU KNOW!

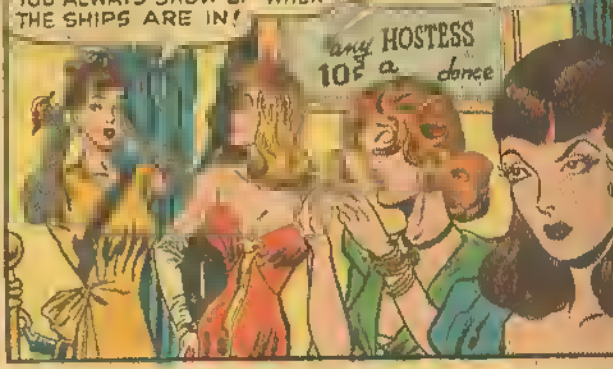
SURE, BABE! BUT I'D WAIT A LONG TIME FOR A DOLL LIKE YOU!



A few minutes later I walked into that other world where I lived my double life! It was too early for the crowd!

HI, DOLLY! I WAS JUST TELLIN' BOOTS I BET YOU'D BE HERE TONIGHT! YOU ALWAYS SHOW UP WHEN THE SHIPS ARE IN!

SURE, MARGE! YOU KNOW ME... I'M ALL FOR THE BOYS IN THE BELL-BOTTOM TROUSERS!



Then the crowd began to drift in, the music started, and Doris Malcolm, the pampered society girl, was a thousand miles away!

TAKE IT EASY, ADMIRAL! THE DIME BUYS A DANCE, NOT A WRESTLING BOJUT!

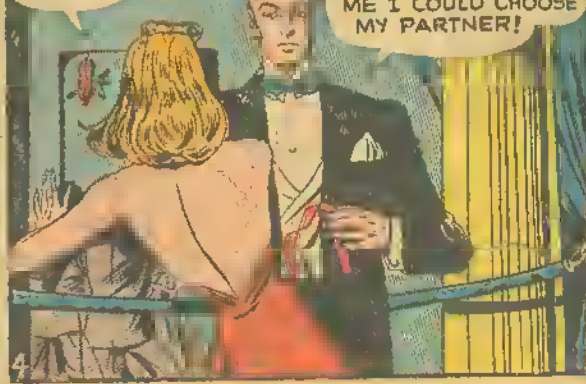
AW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT, BABY! WE COULD GO PLACES TOGETHER!

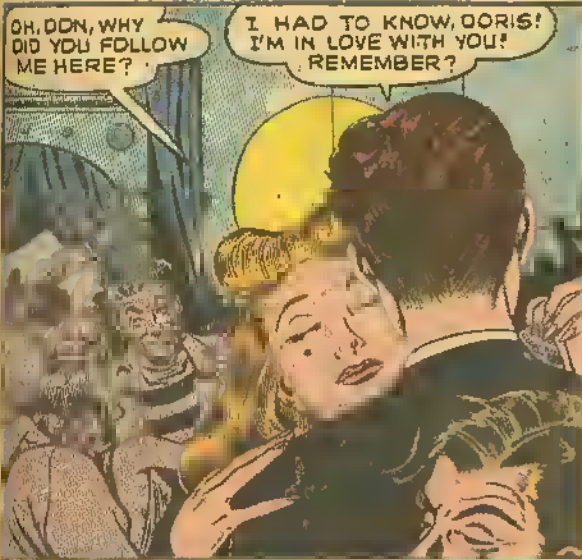


The dance ended, the shuffle for new partners began...and then I knew the full depths of horror!

OH...! DON! NO! GO AWAY!

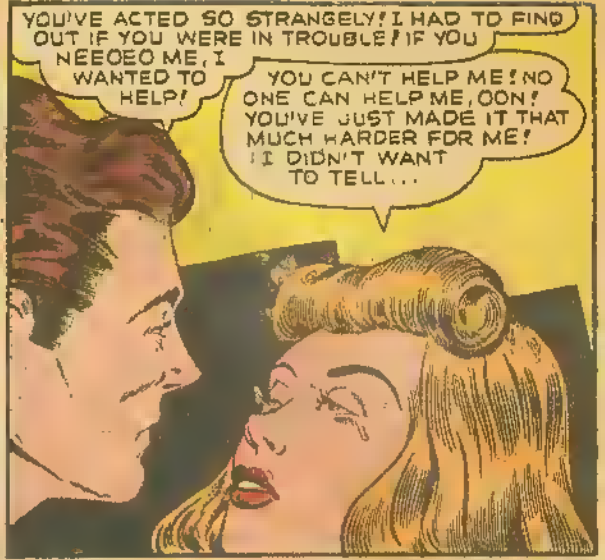
I BELIEVE EACH OF THESE TICKETS ENTITLES ME TO A DANCE! AND THE MAN ASSURED ME I COULD CHOOSE MY PARTNER!





OH, DON, WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME HERE?

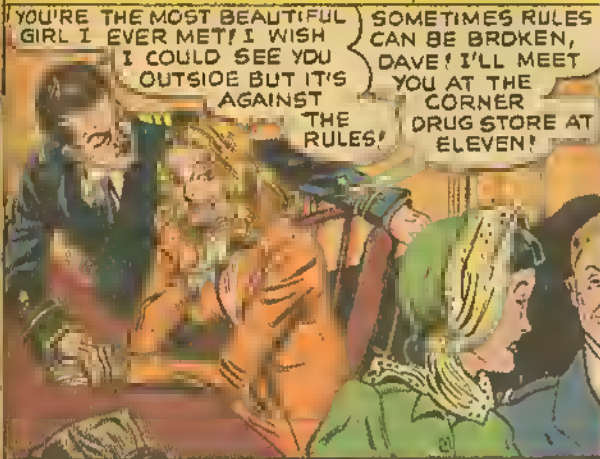
I HAD TO KNOW, DORIS! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! REMEMBER?



YOU'VE ACTED SO STRANGELY! I HAD TO FIND OUT IF YOU WERE IN TROUBLE! IF YOU NEEDED ME, I WANTED TO HELP!

YOU CAN'T HELP ME! NO ONE CAN HELP ME, DON! YOU'VE JUST MADE IT THAT MUCH HARDER FOR ME! I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL...

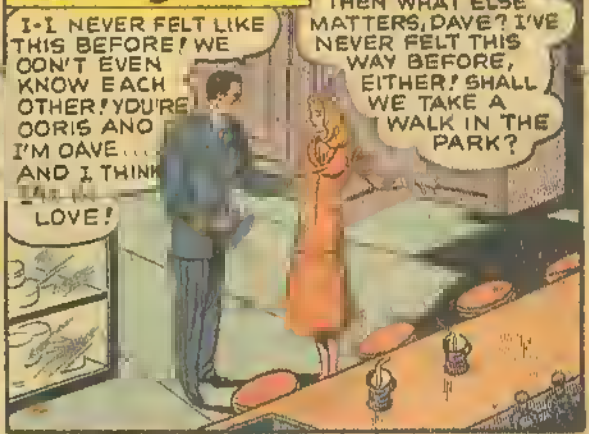
I had to tell Don everything then! I began with that night five years ago, when I was hostess in a U.S.O. Canteen! The war was on...



YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I EVER MET! I WISH I COULD SEE YOU OUTSIDE BUT IT'S AGAINST THE RULES!

SOMETIMES RULES CAN BE BROKEN, DAVE! I'LL MEET YOU AT THE CORNER DRUG STORE AT ELEVEN!

I could tell Don what happened, but how could I make him feel the tumult in my heart when I looked at Dave's warming smile?



I-I NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER! YOU'RE DORIS AND I'M DAVE... AND I THINK... LOVE!

THEN WHAT ELSE MATTERS, DAVE? I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE, EITHER! SHALL WE TAKE A WALK IN THE PARK?

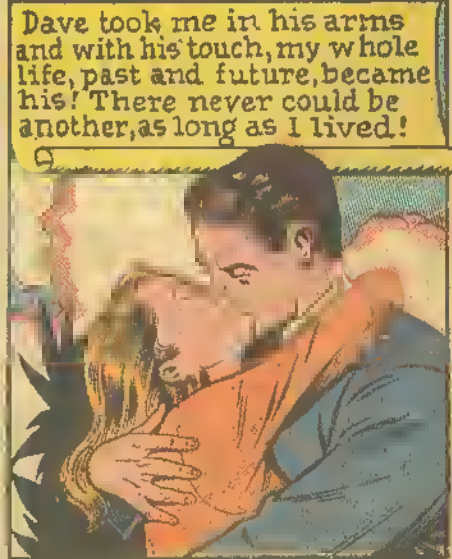


AND THAT'S IT, HONEY! I'M JUST A MID-WESTERN GREASE MONKEY WHO DECIDED TO MAKE NAVY ENGINES HIS CAREER! IT'S A FINE CAREER, DAVE! THE WAR WILL BE OVER ONE OF THESE DAYS...



THIS IS CRAZY, DORIS, BUT... BUT WILL YOU BE WAITING WHEN I COME ASHORE? WILL YOU SHARE THIS KIND OF LIFE WITH ME?

IT'S CRAZY WONDERFUL, DAVE! I'D SHARE ANY KIND OF LIFE WITH YOU!



Dave took me in his arms and with his touch, my whole life, past and future, became his! There never could be another, as long as I lived!

Before we knew it, Dave's time was up! He had to run to get a cab to his ship!

MY LEAVE STARTS AT FOUR TOMORROW, DEAREST! I'LL MEET YOU AT THE SAME DRUG STORE!

I'LL BE WAITING, DAVE! I'LL WAIT FOREVER, IF I HAVE TO! BUT DON'T MAKE ME WAIT, MY DARLING!

POOR DORIS! I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND! HE NEVER CAME BACK!

NO, DON! BUT NOT FOR THE REASON YOU THINK! HE WAS TOO FINE AND HONEST! THE NEXT MORNING A MESSENGER BROUGHT A NOTE TO THE HOUSE!

Miss Malcolm
I just saw your picture in the paper! You must have had some good laughs, a poor engineer asking a wealthy heiress to wait for him! You were kind and I appreciate it!
Thank you for not laughing in my face!
Dave

HE HE THOUGHT I WAS ONLY BEING NICE TO A SAILOR BECAUSE IT WAS MY DUTY!

AND YOU DIDN'T KNOW EITHER HIS LAST NAME OR HIS SHIP? SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAUNT THESE CHEAP SAILORS' DANCE HALLS!

I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM, DON! I... I LOVE HIM AND HE LOVES ME! I'VE ASKED EVERY SAILOR ABOUT AN ENGINEER NAMED DAVE! SOME DAY I'LL FIND HIM! I MUST!

And then, like a bolt of lightning from a clear sky, I saw the little knot of sailors come into the hall!

DON! DON! HE'S HERE! IT'S HAPPENED! HE'S HERE!

FOR YOUR SAKE, THANK HEAVEN! BUT DON'T EXPECT MIRACLES, DORIS! FIVE YEARS IS A LONG TIME!

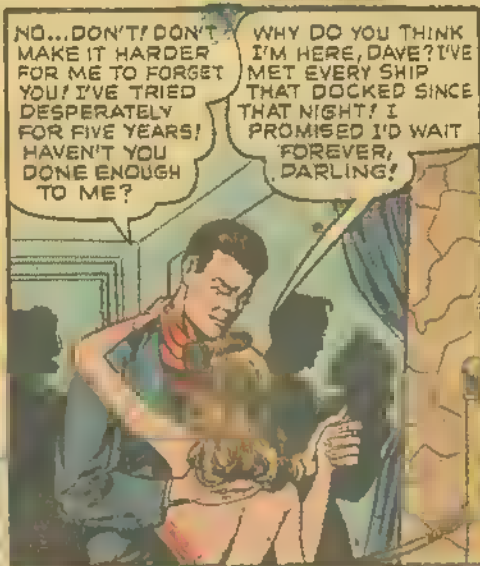
CUT IT OUT, FELLOWS! I AGREED TO COME UP WITH YOU BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE DANCING!

WE'LL MAKE YOU DANCE, DAVE! YOU'VE MOPED AROUND EVERY SHORE LEAVE UNTIL WE'RE FED UP! TAKE THESE TICKETS AND GRAB A GAL!



WON'T I
DO, DAVE?

YOU...?
DORIS!



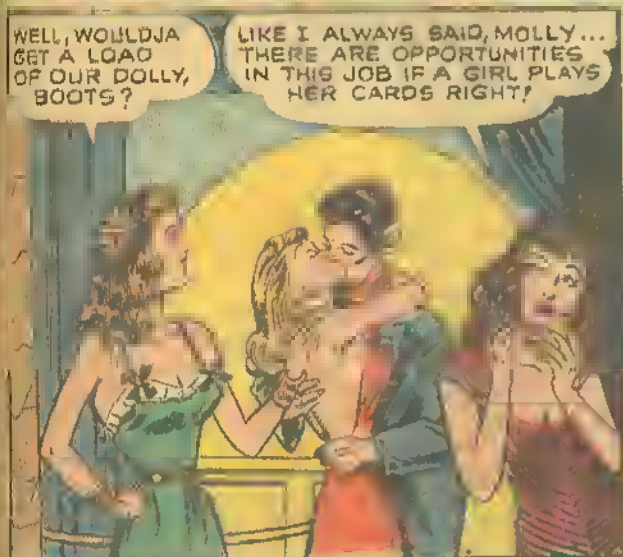
NO...DON'T! DON'T
MAKE IT HARDER
FOR ME TO FORGET
YOU! I'VE TRIED
DESPERATELY
FOR FIVE YEARS!
HAVEN'T YOU
DONE ENOUGH
TO ME?

WHY DO YOU THINK
I'M HERE, DAVE? I'VE
MET EVERY SHIP
THAT DOCKED SINCE
THAT NIGHT! I
PROMISED I'D WAIT
FOREVER,
DARLING!



AND YOU'D BETTER
MARRY HER, SAILOR!
SHE TURNED ME DOWN
FLAT BECAUSE
OF YOU!

AND I'M
NOT A
RICH
HEIRESS
ANYMORE, DAVE!
I SIGNED MY SHARE
OF THE ESTATE OVER
TO MY SISTER KIT!
I'M POOR BUT HONEST,
DARLING!



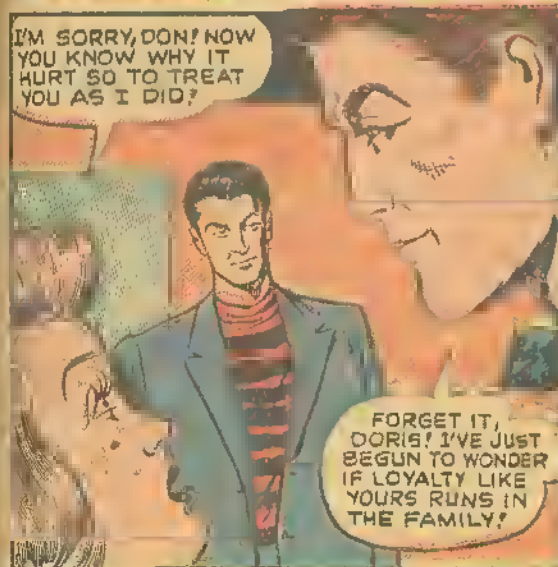
WELL, WOULDJA
GET A LOAD
OF OUR DOLLY,
BOOTS?

LIKE I ALWAYS SAID, MOLLY...
THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES
IN THIS JOB IF A GIRL PLAYS
HER CARDS RIGHT!



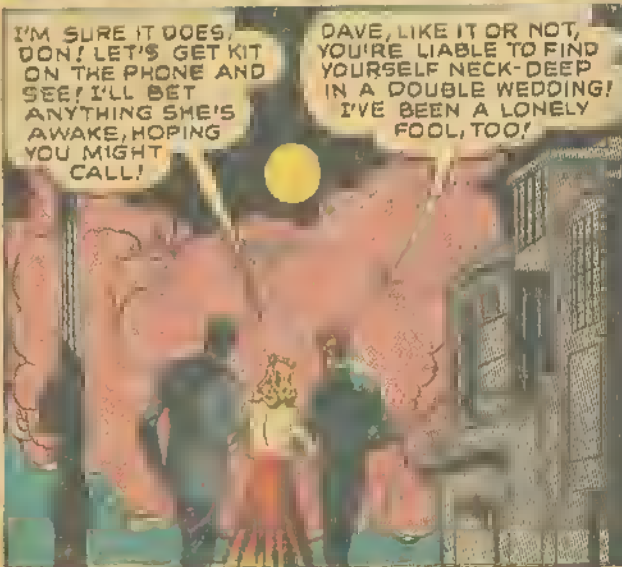
BEST OF LUCK TO
YOU, DAVE! I
COULDN'T LOSE
TO A BETTER
MAN!

MIND IF I START REVISING
MY OPINIONS ABOUT RICH
MEN? I'VE BEEN AN
AWFUL FOOL... AND A
LONELY ONE!



I'M SORRY, DON! NOW
YOU KNOW WHY IT
HURT SO TO TREAT
YOU AS I DID?

FORGET IT,
DORIS! I'VE JUST
BEGUN TO WONDER
IF LOYALTY LIKE
YOURS RUNS IN
THE FAMILY!



I'M SURE IT DOES,
DON! LET'S GET KIT
ON THE PHONE AND
SEE! I'LL BET
ANYTHING SHE'S
AWAKE, HOPING
YOU MIGHT
CALL!

DAVE, LIKE IT OR NOT,
YOU'RE LIABLE TO FIND
YOURSELF NECK-DEEP
IN A DOUBLE WEDDING!
I'VE BEEN A LONELY
FOOL, TOO!

Now You Can Play REAL SONGS at once with NEW COLOR-KEYED PIANO

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Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
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With the "Up-And-Out" Bra underneath, all your clothes will display the sweater girl, feminine curves you desire and require to look attractive. Firm elastic back and easy to adjust shoulder straps. Beautiful fabric — easy to wash. Colors: Nude, White, Black. Sizes: 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Only \$2.49. Mail Coupon Now.

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COLORS:

- NUDE
- WHITE
- BLACK
- BLUE

SIZES:

28
to
38

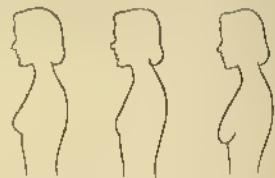


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**BOY! THIS SURE
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